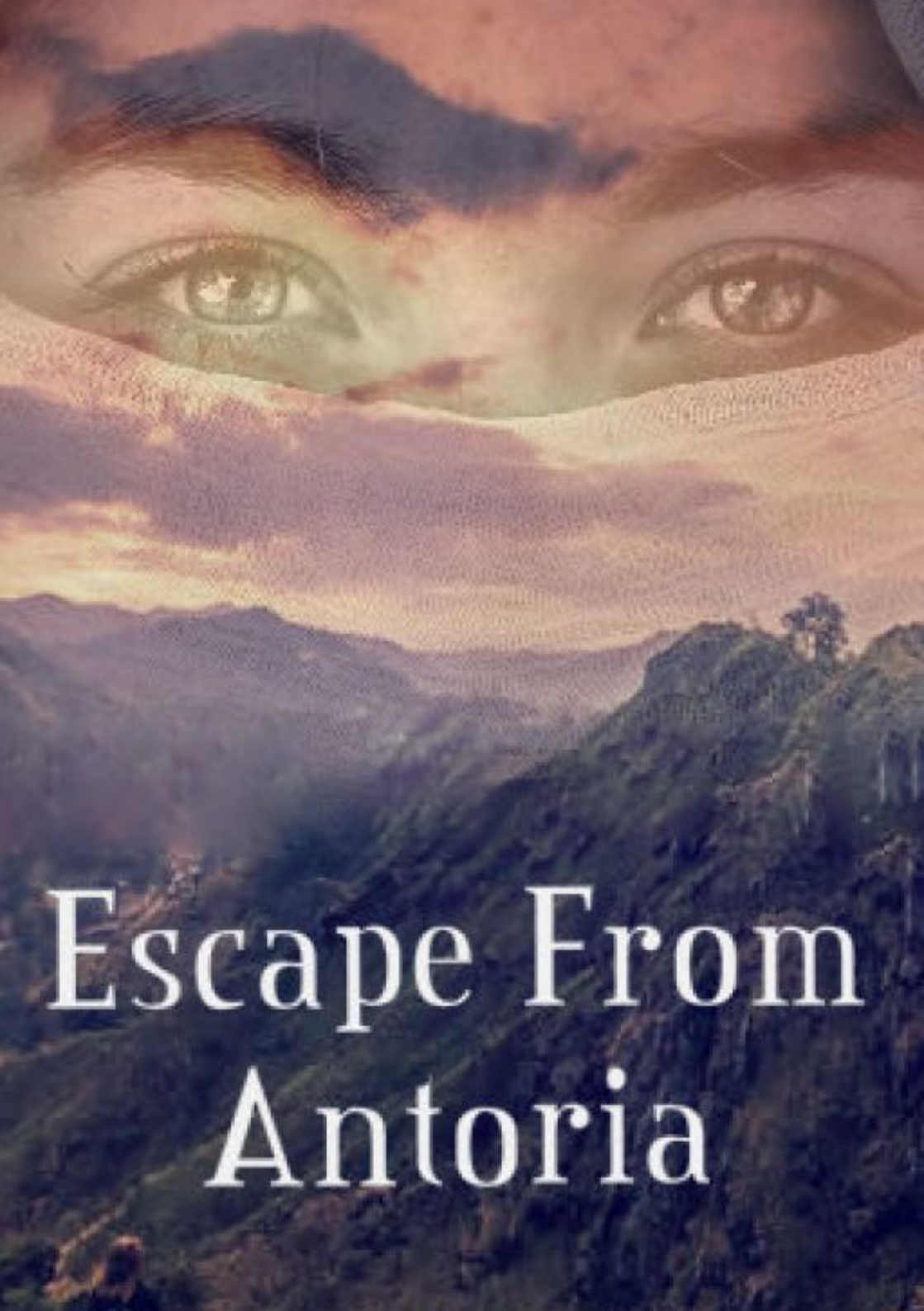
Escape From
Antoria

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Chapter 1

Escape from Antoria (Prologue) Part 1

So a bit of history for you brave adventurers...

This was the first story I ever wrote on Wattpad. It was the first time I had ever written a story and shared it with other human beings... other than school assignments that is. It's the story that started my Wattpad writing journey and here I am 8 years later.

That being said, in those 8 years I still have not proof read or edited this story so please forgive grammar and spelling errors - I am sure there are many. And mostly, I just wanted to say thank you for taking the time to click on my story. I hope you enjoy it! xx

Prologue

I startled awake as ice cold water soaked through my torn clothing. Sputtering and shivering, I looked around the room for the source of the icy water but saw nothing in the gloom. All I could hear was the thud of heavy footsteps moving away from me. A loud bang echoed through the damp and musty room a moment later as a door slammed shut. The click of a lock engaging felt just as loud.

Slowly my eyes adjusted to the darkness. I was in a windowless room, probably a basement if the wooden boards were anything to go by. Weak light filtered through gaps in the boards, giving just enough light that I could see the new hell I found myself in.

Pushing against the damp floor, I tried to stand. I didn't get far. Chains jangled loudly as the links went taught. There was a single moment where I came to an abrupt stop before I was tugged back down to the floor by the manacles around my wrists. Staring dumbly at my hands from my prone position, I

tugged on the chain, glaring at where it was attached to a hoop in the floor. I let out a defeated sigh and leaned back against the wall.

How could I have gotten into this mess? I hadn't even turned eighteen or have a chance to truly live. Hell, I haven't even had a boyfriend.

"God, I'm so pathetic!" I muttered into the darkness.

All I had done was agree to do this one little thing for a considerable lump of cash. Of course it had been too good to be true. It was stupid. I should have known there would no way someone would pay twenty thousand pounds for some stupid research.

The loud thudding footsteps returned. The lock clunked and the door at the far end of the room swung open. Bright light flooded the room. Turning my head towards the wall, I blinked rapidly in an attempt to clear the white dots dancing across my vision. I stared at the wall for a few moments whilst readjusting myself so that I my manacled hands were in a comfortable position. Eventually the light backed off and was directed at a position behind my head.

"Arianna, Look at me now!" A cold voice sneered from the direction of the light. Gathering all my courage in an attempt to not look frightened by my kidnappers; I slowly turned my head to glare at the person who had brought me here and let out a horrified gasp. It couldn't be, could it??

The beautifully carved face that had enchanted me days before no longer held the kindness and warmth. Instead the man's beautiful features now seemed to be twisted in a mask of cruelty and disdain. His blonde locks were still determined to fall in his face and his 6 ft 2 muscular frame which had caused me to go weak at the knees days before now seemed to give the man an overbearing and overly frightening presence.

"Blake?" I whispered so quietly only I heard it. I stared at his cold carved features with betrayal and hurt showing in my eyes but was snapped out of my reverie when his voice spoke in an equally cruel and cold tone.

"Arianna, come with me it's your turn now." He said flatly, no emotion crossing his chiselled features.

"My turn??" I replied in a confused tone. What was he going on about my turn? My turn for what??

"You're going to be a star." He said with an evil grin that sent shivers down my spine. "Have you by any chance ever seen the show Escape from Antoria? ... Well you're about to become the next leading lady."

I sat there confused. Escape From Antoria was a TV show in which the characters who were all magical in some way embarked on adventure to escape the clutches of the evil ruler. This ruler just so happened to despise those with magical abilities and had ordered all of them to be killed on sight. I had been forced to research this show for the hefty sum when I met Blake. I knew he was involved in the show but I didn't find anything untoward except ex-contestants disappearing. So what was with all of this kidnapping business? I decided that playing the dumb female character was my best bet so I forced my features into an expression of excitement and turned to Blake..

"Its soo cool I'm going to be on TV!!" I squealed then looked down at my wrists "but what's with all the

drama. I mean come on! What's with the manacles? A little over the top don't you think!! Is this part of my character? ...So where's the script then. If I'm going to be on TV I need to know the lines." I finished bluntly as if pointing out the obvious.

"There is no script; there are no special effects and this is very much real... God you really are dumb Ari! Escape From Antoria is a reality TV show." He sneered.

I just sat there with a confused expression, for once I didn't have to act dumb. "It can't be a reality show, they're all like magical and even I know there's no such thing as magic!" I retorted with a mixture of confusion and incredulity. God this guy is deluded I thought to myself.

"You can't seriously believe that special effects are that good. Anyways, you should know that magic exists because you can do magic too." He looked at me with disdain and disappointment, as if I

should have already known the answers.

I was speechless. Me??..Magic?? ... "You really are crazy!" I finally replied. This dude was on something strong, if he didn't look so scary right now I might have laughed in his face.

"Doesn't matter because when you wake up again, you will be in Antoria and as I guess you already know from watching the show its survival of the fittest. If you get to the boats on the other side of the island you're memory of the whole island will be erased and you'll be allowed to leave but just to warn you Ari ..." Blake knelt next to me, his lips lightly brushing my ear before he whispered " ... No one ever reaches the boats."

I reeled from this knowing from my research and watching the show myself that no one had ever escaped. I involuntarily let a whimper escape my throat at the same time there was a sharp prick on the side of my neck. Could this really be happening? Almost instantly the contents of the needle began to take affect because my vision began to blur, thoughts were becoming sluggish and my limbs grew heavy. Finally everything went black.

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Chapter 2

Escape From Antoria Part 2

Okay so heres Part 2 or Chapter 1. Comment or vote to let me know what you think and thanks for reading xx

---

Chapter 1

I awoke to the sounds of wind rustling through the trees and the not so distant sound of running water. Twigs and stones on the forest floor were digging into my back so I slowly sat up whilst rubbing my eyes trying to get rid of the grogginess that seemed to cloud my mind. As the events from the musty room leaked into my thoughts, I unconsciously rubbed my

neck where I had felt the pinprick. Glancing down at myself I started checking for manacles or injuries. I discovered that I had neither but also that I was no longer dressed in my torn clothing; I was now clad in the typical clothing of the people of Antoria.

My torn blue tank top had been replaced by a brown leather long sleeved top that covered a white tunic. My Levi's and Converse had been replaced by moss green leggings (kind of like the stuff people wear for horse riding) and black riding boots. To top it all off I had a green hooded cloak that reached my ankle. I bet I looked like an extra out of Robin Hood I thought with a snort, all I needed was a bow and arrow and I'd fit right in.

I stood up brushing off the debris clinging to my clothes. I glanced around slowly taking in my surroundings before looking up at the sky and to the low hanging sun. My guess was that it was nearing nightfall and I was in the middle of a forest with no shelter and no food. Also, my throat was considerably dry, probably an after effect of them drugging me. This seemed to take over any of my

other desires so I decided to head towards the running water. Easier said than done. Looking into the tree line there was no forest path that led to the water instead my way was blocked by thick underbrush which, as I struggled towards the sound of water snagged the end of my cloak.

After 10 minutes of struggling, the trees began to thin and the sound of water had grown to a loud rush. Finally! Excitedly I stepped forward without looking where I was stepping. As I lifted my foot, it got caught on the root of one the trees. Immediately I began to fall face first into the forest floor, branches and thorns scratching and tearing into my face on the way down. Instinctively I thrust out my hands to break my fall but at last second before I hit the ground I stopped. For all but a moment, I hovered not even an inch above the dirt before gently dropping to the ground with a light thud.

"Ouch" I muttered. My heart was pounding from the sudden adrenaline rush but my thoughts were just confused. I must have got caught on the branch. Slowly I staggered to my feet with a huff. I began

muttering obscenities under my breath mixed with the occasional 'stupid tree'. I slowly rotated my ankle that had caught on the root making sure there was no damage but luckily I'd escaped without a scratch. The same couldn't be said for my face. I could feel the dozens on tiny cuts that had began to sting as the sweat from my exertion dripped into the open wounds. "Oww" I moaned starting towards the rushing water once more.

Not even a minute later I came out at the riverbank. It was a fast moving river that was surrounded by muddy banks on each side. Directly across from me on the opposite side of the river there was nothing but more trees. I was about to rush to the water when I caught a glimpse of a doe feeding in a grassy patch on the other bank which caused me to freeze in awe. I stared for several minutes until the doe moved on. As I tried to swallow, I remembered why I had come to the water in the first place. The spell broken I rushed to the water's edge dipping both my hands into the icy water; cupping my hands together to capture the water then raising it to my lips to sooth the desert in my throat. ...ahh heaven. ..I

repeated this several times until my throat no longer felt dry and scratchy. I then splashed my face to clean the sweat, dirt and blood off which just caused the cuts on my face to burn even more.

Suddenly I tensed. I had the distinct feeling I was being watched.

Cautiously I stood up. I stared into the tree line but the only thing I could see was trees I'd stumbled through earlier. Just as I was about to relax, a twig snapped from somewhere beyond my vision. Seconds later the underbrush began to rustle. Frightened, I stepped backwards towards the river's edge. Finally the bushes parted and a man gracefully stepped out of the shadows of the trees. I let out a gasp and again stepped backwards. My mistake. My foot slipped on the muddy bank and as if in slow motion I felt myself falling backwards until the the icy water captured my body.

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Chapter 3

Escape From Antoria Part 3

Okay here's chapter 3 hopefully it's better than Chapter 2 lol Umm If people like this one I'll try and upload again this week but no promises I have to essays to do this week so I'm going to be very busy... Anyway comment and vote or become a fan if you really like it. Hope you enjoy xx

---

Chapter 2

I gasped as the frigid water engulfed my body.OMG THIS IS BLOODY FREEZING!!! The shock of the sudden cold seemed to freeze my mind for a second which caused my head slip under water. Survival

instincts began to kick in and I hastily began to push towards the surface which was much harder than normal due to my frozen limbs and the heavy weight of my clothing. Kicking with all the energy I had, my head broke the surface and I took a desperate gulp of aim before slipping back under the surface. The current of the water made my attempt to reach the surface again futile and as the need to take another breath overwhelmed me, I panicked.

I tried to hold my breath for as long as possible but I just couldn't hold it anymore. So with my next breath I swallowed mouthfuls of water which caused me to choke. OH GOD, I'M GOING TO DIE! HELP ME PLEASE, SOMEONE! ANYONE! I could feel the familiar heaviness ensnare my body as strong muscular arms wrapped around me just as I fell into unconsciousness.

....

Choking up the river water, I sputtered rolling on to my side. My lungs burned in my chest and my entire body felt icy. I took in deep breaths, greedily taking in the air I had desperately fought to get earlier.

Slowly I opened my eyes and found I was staring at someone's very wet legs. I followed the tan coloured trousers up to the deep green tunic which was also soaking wet showing off an incredibly ripped torso, and then up to the most beautiful face I had ever seen. The man was handsome, not in a pretty boy way, but in a rugged and chiselled bad boy kind of way. His chocolate brown eyes, even though they looked down on me with concern, seemed to have a glint of mischievousness to them. His dark hair, which looked almost black in its watered state, clung to his head. If it wasn't for the fact that I had almost drowned I might have been swooning by now. What am I saying I am swooning because man, that boy is HOT!

Realising I had been staring by the smirk that suddenly appeared on his lips, I took a breath and looked deep into his eyes.

"Who are you?"My voice barely above a whisper but he obviously heard me as he stood up and glancing down at me replied in a deep melodious voice.

"I am Nathaniel, but you can call me Nathan. And who might I ask are you?" Nathan hmm that's a nice name sounds familiar though, I'm sure one of the characters on the show was called Nathaniel but he disappeared or something like that.

"My names Arianna, but please, call me Ari."

"Well Ari, as both you and I are very wet" He said looking down at our wet clothes. "I'm going to get some wood for a fire."He then turned and took off into the woods.

Shivering I sat up and looked around. Over by the trees was a horse that obviously belonged to Nathan. He was a gorgeous black stallion; he stood there patiently in the pink light nibbling at the glass uncaring to its surroundings. The sky had turned from a pale blue to a dusky pink as the sun began to set. It seemed hard to think that not long ago I had been getting ready to go on a date and instead I end up here and all because of that bloody money. Grr. Why does this sort of thing have to happen to me??

Several minutes later Nathan came out of the trees with a pile of sticks and logs to make a fire. He

dropped them on the ground in front of me then walked over to the stallion retrieving a lighter from the bag and some paper. Ok now this is strange, a lighter in Antoria?! Come on they don't even have electricity, how the hell did he get hold of a lighter. I watched as he crumpled up the paper and burying it amongst the logs. The last piece of paper he held in his hand ready to incinerate once the lighter ignited. He flicked the lighter several times but it was determined not to light. I couldn't help but laugh even though I was freezing cold.

"I think you're out of lighter fluid" I said between fits of laughter.

He just looked at me like i was some odd specimen at the zoo.

"What might I ask is a lighter?" he enquired raising one of his eyebrows giving him a quizzical expression.

"You're holding it!" I giggled. "Where did you get it anyways? They don't exist in Antoria as far as I know."

Nathan tilted his head down, a sheepish expression on his face. "I... I borrowed it."

"Borrowed it?" I raised an eyebrow giving him a look. Aww bless him he looks so guilty "Don't beat yourself up Nate, it doesn't matter they are really cheap anyways. Now we need to concentrate on getting this fire started and then tomorrow you can show me where you got that lighter."

"Sorry but I don't have anything else to start a fire." Great just great!!

I crouched on the floor over the pile of woods whilst rubbing my hands to return the feeling back to my hands. Damn it! Stupid disposable lighters! Bloody useless, always run out when you need them. I just wish I could get this fire to start I thought before blowing hot air into my palms causing a slight tingling to pass over my skin. Instants after the tingles left my skin, a fire erupted on the ground in front of me burning up the small pile of sticks Nate had collected. The heat from the small blaze warmed my frigid skin making me sigh in content.

I turned to look at Nate who just started back at me with shock, fear and something else I couldn't quite place. Uh-oh. Antorians are notorious for hating magic not that many of them believe any more and I got a feeling that fire wasn't spontaneous combustion. OMG, I'm never going to get out here alive and what about the fire? Does that mean Blake was right? Can I really do magic?

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Chapter 4

Escape from Antoria Part 4

Okay next part is up! gave me an excuse to dodge the essays lol Please vote and comment or become a fan to let me know what you think.:) I'm going to try to find pictures of what Ari, Nate and Blake should look like because I havent described them much if at all so will let you know soon. Anyways hope you enjoy :)

Chapter 4

I stared at the fire for minutes or maybe it was hours , I don't know. I was just frozen but I couldn't take the silence any more as I lifted to meet Nathan's gaze. He was still staring at me but the initial shock

seemed to have worn off and he was now staring at me with idle curiosity.

"Na..." My throat was all dry and scratchy so I cleared my throat to try again. "Nate? Are you OK?"

This seemed to make him realise that he'd been staring because he immediately shook himself then came and sat down next to me in front of the fire. He turned his body towards me and steadily met my gaze.

"How did you do that? Do you have magic?" May as well confess, it's not like I know much more than him.

"Umm I think I did, not totally sure though... Blake did say I could do magic but I just thought he was crazy ... never thought it actually existed..."My mumbled words seemed to die off as I kept eye contact never looking away from his intense gaze.

"Ok I know this sounds strange... but do you have any marks on your back... that look like this?" with that he lifted his shirt to show me his back which had an intricate pattern that wound up the muscled

contours. Wow, Nate is hot! ... What am I saying? He could easily kill me and he'd probably get off with a medal. I need to keep on his good side.

"Well do you??" Nate was looking at me intently.

"Do I what?"

"Were you not listening? I said do you have a mark like mine?" I blushed and focused again on his back this time fully taking in what I'm seeing. OMG. I reached out and traced the design as it followed his muscular shoulder before disappearing round the front of his body; it almost seemed to glow under my touch. This is way too creepy; it really looks just like mine.

(http://ebookstore.co.uk/images/full_body_tattoo.jpg - Nate's tattoo)

"Yea... But ..." I hastily removed my soaking cape and the brown leather top so that I was only in the white tunic. I lifted the bottom to reveal an intricate design that wove up my back. Nate copied what I had done and traced the pattern up my back causing me to shiver as his hot touch burned against my icy skin.

"What does it mean? I only got this a few weeks ago, I went out for my 18th birthday, got very drunk and when I woke up in the morning I had this...flipped out because I figured my friends let me get a tattoo or something."

"This isn't a tattoo, it's the mark of the ancient Antorian mystics, and these designs haven't been seen for over a thousand years. Some prophet told me to come to this part of the woods on this day and I would meet the person to help defeat that tyrant who rules us, didn't think it would be a girl though."

"Hold up, ancient mystics? Does that mean you can perform magic as well?"

"Yes I can do enchantments and spells, but you could say telekinesis is my strong point."

"Cool, I'm guessing from my little bonfire that I have pyrokinesis, wonder if I can do anything else?" I sat there for a few moments thinking over Nate's words...defeat the tyrant... "So does this mean I have to fight because just to warn you might right hook sucks" I plastered a grin to make it seem light-hearted but I think Nate sensed my reluctance. Come

on who wants to go up against someone who would be equally happy to see you 6 feet under and probably has superior fighting skills.

"You will have to learn hand to hand combat but you have your magic as a weapon." God I really am an idiot of course I have magic.

"Anyways I'm freezing and hungry" just to prove its point my stomach rumbled, "Lets dry off and then we'll have to think about food."

Nate walked over to his horse and retrieved a medium size package. He opened it to reveal sandwiches, lots of sandwiches. "Food is served" he said with a huge grin plastered on his face.

I hastily grabbed a sandwich and stuffed it in my face. "Thanks" I mumbled around a huge mouthful of bread. Bet I looked so attractive right now.

Once I was all fed dried and watered I laid down on the uneven floor covering myself with cape. I could feel my eyelids getting heavy with exhaustion so I relaxed next to the burning embers of the fire. I looked over at Nate on the opposite side of the fire

and felt a small smile appear on my face. I closed my eyes and sighed contentedly.

"Nate?"

"Yes Ari?"He replied in a voice thick with sleep.

"Thanks for saving me earlier" I whispered before rolling over so that I was facing away from him, letting sleep overtake me.

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Chapter 5

Escape from Antoria Part 5

Umm, yea so next part, not much going on jus a bit of a filler.

Umm heres a links to the pics of what Ari and Nate should look like~~

Ari http://s.bebo.com/app-image/7925021956/5411656627/PROFILE/i.quizzaz.com/img/q/u/08/04/12/sarahb.jpg

Nate http://media.photobucket.com/image/boy%20dark%20hair%20dark%20eyes%20bad%20boy%20chise RS_Davis/Celebrities/barry_watson_01.jpg

---

Chapter 5

I awoke to the bright early morning light that stabbed my eyes. I squinted until my eyes adjusted to the light and it became less painful. I glanced around me; Nate was sat next to his horse repacking the saddle bags. My body felt stiff so with a groan I sat up which caused Nate to look over in my direction.

"Morning sleeping beauty!" he said with a smile in his voice. Oh no. He's a morning person ... yuk.

"Morning" I mumbled reluctantly heaving myself off the ground. I rubbed my eyes to remove the effects of sleep and then dragged my feet over to where Nate sat. "So where are we headed today?"

"Umm I was thinking we could go into Moro to get some supplies and then we need to find the other members of the resistance." Ooh sounds fun ... not.

"Well I need you to take me to where you 'borrowed' that lighter, it might be the only way that I can get home" And it will get me one step closer to Blake so I can kill the man.

"Ok how about we go into Moro get some supplies because I'm hungry" To highlight the fact his stomach growled in protest. "And then we can go looking for the strange men." Strange men? ... I suppose is he had seen me wearing skinny jeans and converse he'd probably have a heart attack.

"Sounds good" I grabbed my cape of the floor and brushed off the leaves that had stuck to it before tossing it over my shoulders.

****** *******

As we approached the edge of town Nate paused and regarded me silently before pulling me closer to him and leaning down to whisper in my ear. "Don't let anyone see your tattoo and don't mention the magic ... to anyone." He finished with a stern tone that was unexpected he was usually so happy. I suppose that's what being hunted does to you.

"Don't worry I won't say anything, I know what happens to magicians that are caught, I did own a TV you know." Oh shit ... I slapped a hand over my mouth and watched as Nate expression kept changing.

Finally he spoke after what felt like hours. "What's a TV?" Oh not good, he probably shouldn't know about my world. Ah well chances are I'm probably going to die before I find Blake or the boats.

"It's a box with moving pictures; you watch programmes which are kind of like short plays and there's sound that comes out of it too." I tilted my head to the side. "If I ever make it back home I'll show you. Now come on, let's get going the sooner we find the strange men the sooner I find the way out."

With that I strolled ahead of Nate and into the bustling marketplace. The place was alive with sound, colour and smells; it is so much better than television. The stall owners were calling out to me as I passed to buy things from their stalls and the sweet aromas from the foot stalls drifted through the air. People bumped into me as the pushed towards the stall but were polite enough to call apologies over their shoulders. At least they're friendly.

Nate dragged me over to a stall that was selling soups and bought us each a bowl as well as a freshly baked loaf. We took our food to the fountain next the

market and ate in silence. Once I'd eaten all of the soup I set the bowl down on the edge of the fountain. That soup was amazing.

I turned my head to see Nate staring at me in a way that made me get butterflies. Oh no, this can't be happening... can anyone say awkward!

I looked away as a blush crept onto my cheeks and began to scan the faces of the people in the market place. The silence was killing me so I decided to talk.

"Umm thanks for the food Na..."I trailed off as I caught a glimpse of someone familiar in the marketplace. He must have felt my gaze because he turned and spotted me and immediately started pushing through the people towards me. I t couldn't be. He came to a stop in front of me. Yep it was him. "Blake?"

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Chapter 6

Escape From Antoria Part 6

Okies so Blake is back. hehe. Let the fun begin. Hope you guys like. Please vote and comment or even become a fan. Thanks for reading Kat xx

---

Chapter 5

I jumped up from the wall and glared at Blake my hands balled into fists at my side. Stupid jerk, betrays me and think he can get away with it. "What are you doing here?" I growled as he watched me with a smirk.

"Aww Ari what's wrong don't you love me anymore?" he teased as he stepped closer to me. I tried backing away from him but my legs hit the edge of the fountain. Crap! I took a deep breath and was overwhelmed by his familiar scent. I twisted the edge of my shirt whilst I avoided his gaze. I can't believe he's doing this to me again! He took another step forward so that there was barely an centimetre between us which caused my already speeding heart to beat more erratically. He lifted his hand and gently brushed my arm which caused an involuntary shiver to pass through me. He started to lean forward, his eyes gaze with obvious intent at my lips. I could feel the excitement and the anticipation of Blake's hot kisses pass through me. I tilted my head to receive his lips but just as Blake's lips were about to brush mine we were interrupted by someone clearing their throat.

"Umm... sorry to interrupt" said Nate awkwardly from beside me.

I snapped out of Blake's spell and hastily pushed him away; I then pulled my arm back and swung it with

all my strength at Blake's face, my fist connecting with a satisfying thud with his jaw. Blake stumbled, his face showing obvious surprise. I then turned to Nate and gave him a grateful and somewhat triumphant smile.

"Thanks I owe you big time" I threw my arms round his neck and kissed him on the cheek which caused his to suddenly go rigid.

"For what?" he replied, confusion showing in his tone.

"If I kissed that loser, I would have had to kick his butt and my own butt and let tell you that wouldn't be pretty." Yeah and I'd probably fall for his charms all over again. Ah well at least I don't have to go looking for him now. "Anyways you don't have to worry about taking to where you got that lighter, we've got the man we need right here."I smiled then turned and looked at Nate's confused expression.

"Blake is the guy who brought me to Antoria" I turned and glared at Blake who was still rubbing his jaw. "And he's the one who's going to show me the way out."

"Actually if you let me talk before throwing your fist in my face, you would have heard me tell you that I brought you here for a reason." He sat down on edge of the fountain with a sigh."Let's go somewhere more private we can talk, I don't want anyone to overhear. You better come too your highness." He finished glancing at Nate with a tilt to his head. Highness? Nate? Oh you have got to be kidding me.

"Your Highness?" I looked over at Nate who looked sheepish. I thought back to how he had seemed familiar, suddenly it all seemed to click... "OMGYOUR THE MISSING PRINCE!!" oops probably shouldn't have screeched that.

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Chapter 7

Escape From Antoria Part 7

Next part hope you enjoy :) xx

Chapter 6

All of the people in the market place who had heard my impromptu screeching turned to fix us with a curious stare before continuing on their way shaking their heads. Nate slapped a hand over my mouth and pulled me against him so that he could whisper in my ear.

"Be quiet Ari, I don't want anyone to know I'm still alive." His whispers tickled as his breath swept

across the skin of my neck causing goose bumps to form and a shiver to pulse through my body. Whoa, two guys in two minutes. Not good. I gave a small nod to show that I understood and he removed his hand and I reluctantly stepped away from his warm body.

Blake stepped forward grabbed my arm possessively and began to drag me towards a small building that was some sort of B&B. Nate followed behind glancing round to make sure we weren't being followed. Once inside Blake dragged us up to the second floor and unlocked the door of a room before ushering us all inside. He then pulled out his Iphone and began pacing round the room pointing his phone at random areas of the room. A loud beeping sound emanated as he got closer to the bookcase and he squinted to look closer at the spine before stopping and pulling a copy of the History of Antoria off the shelf.

He flipped open the book and pulled out a small camera and some other device. He disconnected the wires then held up it up so Nate and I could take a closer look. "These are the basic recording devices

that have been placed in every household and public place in Antoria. This is how the TV show manages to capture everything because they are always watching."His tone was so grave that it sent shivers down my spine.

"I feel like Winston in 1984, this all feels a little bit like Big Brother." I shivered and began glancing round the room cautiously.

"You're not far wrong but I've disabled the devices in the room so we're safe to talk." He said looking directly at me which gave me a sense of reassurance.

"Ok" I sighed then dropped onto the bed. "so are you going to tell me what's going on? Why are you even here? You drugged me and dropped me in the middle of a bloody forest where if I had stayed there long enough I probably would have been caught. And you - " I spun to face Nate "Why are you hiding?"

Blake looked at Nate and then spoke first. "I know you have the markings of the mystics...both of you... I knew you would be marked before the marks appeared on your skin. I'm marked too but not in the same way." He sighed then pulled off his shirt to

show a tattoo as beautiful as the ones Nate and I possessed but much smaller. "I'm not a full mystic like you two; I'm the oracle of the ancients, well, a reincarnation of him." Reincarnation?? This is getting seriously weird.

"Okay whatever, but still why did you bring me here? Next you're gonna tell me it was your destiny to bring me here blah, blah, blah." I looked at him whilst tapping my foot.

"Well, yeah it kind of is my destiny. I put you in that part of the forest because I saw that you'd find Nate and then all that was left would be to find the last mystic. By the way, still have no idea who that is or even how old they are, could be waiting years for them to show up. It took me 5 years to find you Ari and now I have, we need to set about finding the third so that you and Nate can have the future that I have foreseen." Whoa, talk about too much information.

I cleared my throat and looked at Nate. "So what about you?"

He sighed then looked at me, he seemed just as overwhelmed with me and a little bit afraid as his eyes kept glancing at the recording device in Blake's hand. "You know my dad is the king." I nodded to show I understood. "Well then you also know he hates magic, he's terrified of it and has sought to remove it from the world forever. So when I was first marked I stayed at home thinking nothing about it. But when I started to do things, things that couldn't be explained, I left." He looked down defeated. "I had to give up my family, my friends, everything because if I stayed there any longer my dad would have noticed and I would have been killed no questions asked."

I walked up to him and hugged him, putting everything I felt into that hug. "Do you think you will be able to do it Nate?" It came out barely as a whisper.

He looked down at me confused. "Do you think you can defeat your father?" He gulped then cleared his throat, indecision flickering briefly across his features before it turned into a mask of hard resolve.

"Yes, it's time magic returned to Antoria. It's time people got to live free of fear, my father has ruled to long with hate in heart."

I kept my eyes on Nate's face for a few seconds more before looking at Blake. "So what do we do next?"

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Chapter 8

Escape From Antoria part 8

Okay just a filler chap until I decide where this story is going or if I should continue it. Umm starts off in Ari's point of view. Vote and comment to let me kno what you think even if you think its rubbish lol thanks for reading xx

---

Chapter 7

"Well for starters we're getting out of here, I'll have to reconnect this otherwise they'll send people over to check it out and then you have to find the rest of your people."You? Shouldn't he mean we?

As if hearing my thoughts Nate asked "You? Aren't you coming with us?"

Blake looked at me and let out a sigh. "No. I can't I'm not allowed to interfere more than I have and I have to keep you out the cameras eye back at HQ we all know that the king likes his little hunting trips and if he finds out about Nate, well all hell would break loose."

Damn he has a point. "Okay. Do you know where they will be? Our people?" God that sounds strange.

"The ones that were brought to this world for the TV show are divided up into groups. The closest to us is in the forest 2 miles north of here, they just set up camp for the night. When you get there show them your powers to show who's side you are on or else they might kill you before you get with in 50 feet." With that he pushed me and Nate out of the door and slammed it shut behind us.

"Do you think we can trust him Ari?"Nate seemed to whisper it to me.

"I don't know but I don't think we have any choice."With that we strode out of the B&B.

***

Blakes POV

I slammed the door shut behind them and let out a deep breath. It killed me seeing the distrust in Ari's eyes, she doesn't know how I feel about her and how I wish I didn't have to bring her here in the first place but she won't find it, it's all for the best she's not meant for meshes destined for someone else I know that more than she even does at this point.

I walked over to the bookcase and replaced the recording devise into the book and reconnect the wires. After replacing the bookshelf and then swiftly I headed out the room, grabbing out the radio form my belt and turning it on. Damn world needs to get electricity, this is costing me a fortune in batteries. I flicked the switch and called the main camp.

"Home base, its Ryan I'm just heading out of town. I'll be at base in five, are you ready to cut the next episode?"

"Yea sure Ry, see you in a few." Just as I was about to disconnect the voice came back on. "Hey any luck finding the new one."

"Nope I thought I had her but it wasn't just someone who had the same hair" I said with a laugh

"Yea we get the falsies all the time, right see you soon and don't forget the meat, If fed up of bloody pasta."

I flipped the switch of the radio and slid it under my belt then I headed towards the market to buy the meat. My mind kept wandering back to Nate and Ari. I hope he keeps he safe because he doesn't know just how important she is.

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Chapter 9

Escape From Antoria part 9

Okies part 9 of Antoria hope you like it.

Chapter 8

Nate and I rode to the outskirts of the town on Nate's horse, me clutching onto Nate for dear life as we rode into the forest just as Blake had told us. What can I say I've never been on a horse before! The light was beginning to fade as the sun lowered behind the horizon so that the forest began to look dark and ominous as the trees cast oddly shaped shadows that taunted me as we rode past. Can anyone say creepy?

After about half an hour we began to hear people talking and laughing.

"I think we're nearly there. Keep a look out for their guards so we can magic it up, I'd rather not be killed." Nate whispered. What and he thinks I do ?

Nate made the horse slow down so that we were barely moving at all but we must have passed their early warning barrier because a high pitched wail spread throughout the forest and made me clutch my hands over my ears so that I was no longer holding on to Nathan. Bad idea. The horse bucked causing me to topple off backwards onto the damp earth with a thud but Nate being the experienced horseman he is managed to stay on and settle her down. "Shh buttercup" he cooed. Can't believe he more worried about the horse than me, I did just fall very hard and now I have a very sore butt. Jerk.

The sounds of laughter and chatter had disappeared. They were now replaced with panicked cries of men and women. Some men were barking orders and there was the sound of branches snapping as I'm guessing their guards rushed towards us.

"Nate we need to go all mystics Meg now 'cos they're coming and I'd rather not be killed before I lose my virginity so stop saying sweet nothings to the bloody horse and do something 'cos I have no idea how I did it last time!!!" I screeched at Nate. He just shrugged his shoulders like it was nothing and slid of the horse to stand next to me. He held out his hand to me and as I clasped it he pulled me up. I felt a jolt of something, something I've never felt before as his hand wrapped around mine. I felt my mouth drop open in an 'O'. Okay what the hell was that?

The bushes in front of us began to spill out men, 5 men. They all looked at us with anger and hatred in their eyes. One of the taller and burlier men stepped forward and glared at us. "What are you doing here? I f you wish to keep your lives turn around and never come back."

I turned my head to look at Nate. We caught each other's eye and nodded. I then faced the others and repeated the same motions I did when I had created the fire before. I rubbed my hands together and blew through my hands wishing the twigs on the floor

between me and Nate and the 5 men would catch on fire. Luckily it seemed to work and the branches immediately set on fire which illuminated the trees around us. The men all looked on with shock which only strengthened when Nate raised his hand and the flaming twigs elevated steadily in the air. I then concentrated on the twigs and willed the fire to die down so that only one small branch was aflame and I grasped the end that had been untouched by fire.

"So you're like us then?" One of the men finally spoke. He was tall about 6 ft 3 and had a slight muscular frame. I raised the branch to get a look at his face. NO WAY!

"Oh My God you're Ryan Carter!" I squealed like a little girl jumping up and down on the spot.

The man looked at me with complete shock and his face visibly paled in the soft glow of the fire.

"How do you know my name?" He asked with a slight shake to his voice.

"I saw you on TV dummy. Soo glad you're alive by the way, when you disappeared from the screens I

assumed your character died off. Well that's before I knew it was real and then stupid Blake bring me here and then whaddya know, here you are alive and well." I took a deep breath and smiled brightly at him. His face showed nothing but confusion.

"TV? But how? They don't have TV's in Antoria and everyone else I've met so far has been Antorian. And how would you see me on TV anyways?" I glanced at him to check he wasn't kidding and then my lips formed an 'O'. I forgot he's one of the originals, one of the only surviving member s of the original 'cast'.

I looked around at the trees and saw a camera lodged half way up but facing the opposite direction. I walked up to the tree. "Nate give me a boost." I ordered.

"Why?"

"Just do it." He grudgingly lifted me up so that I was almost level with the tree. I held my hand next to the camera and thought about fire melting the plastic ties that secured it to the tree. God they are such cheap skates couldn't even afford metal. About 10 seconds later the camera fell from the tree into my

hands a small antenna sticking out from the back. "Okay you can put me down now."

Nate dropped me unceremoniously onto the floor so that I stumbled a bit. Jerk. "Okay this is what I mean by TV. Ryan you're in another dimension, not another country. And to make it worse ever since you've been here they have filmed every second of it and aired it as a reality TV show back in England except no one knows it's a reality show they think it's all special effects, the magic and stuff." His jaw dropped.

"What a bit like I'm a celebrity and Big Brother?"

"Exactly like that. I mean over one million people saw you kiss Amanda." I said raising my eyebrow. Ryan just blushed and looked sheepishly. "Hey don't worry about it. It was nearly two years ago and she left with that other group remember? Oh and just so you know she was a bit of a bitch and a slut, slept with 5 guys in the other group in the space of a week and then she even got pregnant. Not the best idea for someone on the run."

"What? Amanda a slut?...Pregnant?" He stammered.

"Yea she had a little girl called Rachel or something. Don't worry it's not yours." I then looked at the other 4 men who looked completely lost which matched the expression on Nate's face.

"Okay. Let me simplify this for you all. Back where Ryan and I are from we have this thing called a TV. It's a box that plays moving images and sounds. It's almost like you have people in the box and on every Wednesday at 9 Pm you all appear on this little screen and whatever you have been doing for the past week, is shown to the world. Any questions?"

They all just looked at me dumbstruck. God this is why I never explain anything I just make it worse. "Look we don't have time for this if you haven't noticed we are in a forest and judging by the area and lack of light I'd say that the guards from the King's army will be passing through this area of the forest in about an hour. So please can we move?"At this they all snapped to attention.

The burly leader stepped forward. "Fine but if you try anything you won't live to see the sun rise." God what got his panties in a twist?

About 5 minutes later we came to an edge of a lit clearing. As we emerged from the trees 10 sets of eyes snapped towards us and began to glare at Nate and I. Oh great I feel like I've just been fed to the wolves. Thanks a lot Blake, thanks a lot!

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Chapter 10

Escape From Antoria Part 10

Okay part 10 nothing amazing but ah well lol hope you like it vote and comment to let me know what you think.

Chapter 9

The leader of the men who found Nate and I stepped forward and addressed everyone. "Listen up we've got two more joining us for the time being. They're one of us."

"But Sam we shouldn't just let strangers in. Don't you know who that man is. She said pointing to Nate." Oh crap.

"What are you saying?" He boomed. She was about to speak but Nate cut her off.

"I am the late Prince Nathaniel or should I say lost Prince." Everyone mouth in the camp dropped into identical 'O'. Two of the men who escorted us to the camp stepped forward to subdue Nate but he simply held up his hand and they were forced backwards by an invisible force. "Look my father would kill me just as quickly as he'd kill one of you probably even more so if he found out that me and Ari here are the ones from the prophesy." This caused all of them to gasp.

The leader shut him mouth then shot us oth a challenging look. "Prove it."

I looked at Nate.

"Show them"

He and I pulled off our outer clothing so that I was once again only in my tunic and Nate was topless. I lifted up the back of my shirt and at the same time as Nate we turned so that our backs were facing them and they could see our matching tattoos.

"It's true. They wear the mark of the mystics." An elderly man was gazing at our marks intently. All the members of the camp looked back and forth between Nate and I and the old man. Then suddenly excited whisperings erupted from the group. Ok then, at least someone's happy to see us. We both put our clothes back on and I finshed my putting on my cape and pulling up the hood> Alll these stares were beginning to freak me out.

"If we have the first two of the trinity then we only need to find the third though who they are and where to find them is another matter." Did they just say trinity? What the hell is that?

"Umm what's this trinity that I'm meant to be part of? I mean one minute I'm happily going about my life then someone pays me money to do research, I get stuck in this place, get told I've got powers and that I'm meant to save everyone blah, blah, blah. Anyone else here feel like their head is going to explode because I do!!" I began panting trying to regain my breath. I glanced at everyone around me but they all had their mouths hung open in shock. "What?"

It was the old man who spoke. "You do not seem to know about the destiny that awaits you but never mind I will fill you in on what I know but I must warn you this is just one of the many interpretations of the prophesy, it was after all made 300 years ago. I gulped. 300 years and they follow it as if it was a bible. These people are deluded. "One thing I know for certain is that you two are indeed part of the trinity of mystics that was mention because of your markings. I think I've got it somewhere..." He began searching through his bags. "...Ah, here we are..." He handed me a small and thin leather bound book.

"What am I supposed to do with this?" He chuckled then nodded towards the book.

"That is one of the surviving copies of the prophesy. It's mostly written in Ancient Antorian but most has been translated but if you look on page 5 you will see that it has the designs of your markings." I flicked to the page and sure enough there were drawing of out markings and on the opposite page there was a picture of even more beautiful and intricate

markings. Wow. "As you can see some of it has been translated but you can get the general idea of it."

I thumbed through the pages until I came to the front of the book. I saw symbols and then written underneath was neat script in English. Still think its weird a different realm and they speak English. I looked at the symbols and somehow felt entranced. I focused on the words and then shook my head. "Umm you've translated it wrong."

"And how would you know that young lady that book was translated by an expert in Ancient Antorian language." The old man replied a slight edge to his tone. Ooh touchy.

"Well he needs to go back to school and re learn the language because that symbol doesn't mean King it means sorcerer. So instead of the dark and powerful King who sits on the throne, it's the dark and powerful sorcerer who sits on the throne." They all just gaped at this.

"How do you know this?" Ryan asked from beside me. OK didn't notice him standing there before.

"I don't know." I said whilst unconsciously rubbing my head. "I just do. Oh and by the way there is more than one prophesy in this book by the looks of it but I'm guessing the person who translated it got confused. The first part is kind of like a story. It tells of how a dark sorcerer who is also a King became afraid when after executing the daughter of a prophet he was told by the grieving woman that he would be killed by the 3, the mystic trinity. He then set a proclamation that banished all those within Antoria that had magical powers. If they were not gone in 7 days they would be hunted down and executed."Okay, even I'm a bit freaked out, how the hell can I be reading this? I've never seen symbols like these before in my life.

"When it mentions the trinity it's really unclear, it just talks about a bunch of numbers... when the two become one the third will swiftly follow or something strange like that. So I'm guessing now that Nate and I are together the third part of the trinity won't be that hard to find." I closed the book and handed it back to the old man suddenly feeling a bit

dizzy. I think I concentrated a bit too hard on them silly old words.

I must have stumbled because next thing I know I'm being held by Nate, his arms wrapped tightly around my waist and my head was pressed into his chest.

"Are you alright Ari? He said his voice full of concern. I tilted my head up so that I could look at his face but his head had tilted down at the same time and our lips brushed. Nate quickly pulled his head away in surprise but a million emotions flashed through me at once. It felt so different to anything I'd felt before. The tingle I felt on my lips even though his had touched mine for barely a second, the warmth flooding my veins and the feeling deep in my soul that this was right, this was home.

Before I could stop myself I reached my hand up and grasped Nate's chin pulling his lips back to mine and kissed him with as much passion and emotion that I could put into one kiss. Nate immediately responded hugging me closer to his chest and his hand pulling down my hood so that my hair came tumbling out. He trailed his tongue across my bottom lip begging

for entrance which left a trail of fire. I allowed him entrance and as our tongues began to explore each other's mouths in a way that left my legs weak and my head light as the strange emotions flooded me.

All of a sudden I felt heat encompass me and Nate and the flickering lights as if we were standing in fire but the strange thing was it didn't burn. Me and Nate were totally engrossed in the kiss until we were snapped out of it by panicked voices.

"Oh My God, they're going to die! they're on fire!" Came the voice of some woman at the edge of the camp. Nate and I immediately pulled apart our eyes snapping open to see who was in danger. What we saw though was not what we expected.

All of the members of the camp surrounded us with fearful eyes, their faces flashing in the red and orange and yellow light of the fire that encompassed me and Nate. Wait that means Nate and I are the ones on fire. Why aren't we burning?

I took a deep breath, closed my eyes and concentrated on getting rid of the fire. It eventually shrunk until it was a footbal sized orb floating in

front of me. I tried to make it go out but it just wouldn't. Suddenly it split in two and then hurtled towards Nate and me. Oh crap this can't be good.

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Chapter 11

Escape from Antoria part 11

Okay heres part 11 not really much going on but hope you like it :)

Chapter 10

I cringed away from the orb as it flew towards me but when it made contact with the area over my heart it seemed to dissolve through my skin because next thing I know I feel as if I've got really bad heartburn and I'm thrown backwards off my feet landing in the dirt 2 feet away from where I was previously standing. I lay on the ground for a few seconds before looking for Nate. I see him a few feet

away also spread out in the dirt. What the hell was that?

"Nate, are you OK?"I said whilst getting up from the floor and brushing myself down. My hair is covering my face so I brush it out of the way as I stand up only to hear people gasp. Great what have I done this time to shock them?

I shake my head and walk over to Nate. I hold out my hand to a panting Nate only to see his eyes widen as they land on my face. I feel my own eyes widening as I look down at Nate's face. Whoa. His eyes are now bordered with markings similar to the ones on his back. I would have thought they would make him uglier but instead they framed his eyes making them stand out. He looked beautiful.

"Oh my god, your face!" We exclaimed at the same time. He grasped hold of my hand and pulled himself upright then used the hand to pull me close. We both lifted our hands and began to trace the markings. As my fingers moved along the lines tracing the pattern it changed colour from black to a bright red almost

as if my touch was igniting the marking. Wow. Can this get any stranger?

As Nate traced my markings I could feel a tingling that for some reason made my heart warm. I wonder if mine is changing colour too.

"Nate is my marking glowing red when you touch it?"I said looking up at his dazed expression.

"No yours is glowing blue. You look so beautiful." He said with an awed voice. Cool I'm blue always did like blue. Oh god now I've got Eiffel 65 in my head. I started singing it in my head but I couldn't help it, it just burst from my lips so that everyone could hear me singing.

"Yo listen up here's a story

About a little guy that lives in a blue world

And all day and all night and everything he sees

Is just blue like him inside and outside

Blue his house with a blue little window

And a blue corvette

And everything is blue for him and hisself

And everybody around

Cos he ain't got nobody to listen to

I'm blue da ba dee da ba die...

I have a blue house with a blue window.

Blue is the colour of all that I wear.

Blue are the streets and all the trees are too.

I have a girlfriend and she is so blue.

Blue are the people here that walk around,

Blue like my corvette, it's standing outside.

Blue are the words I say and what I think.

Blue are the feelings that live inside me.

I'm blue da ba dee da ba die..." I had started dancing at the same time as I was singing and Ryan had an extremely amused expression on his face. "Umm yea sorry bout that but saying I was blue started off. I mean come on it's a classic!" The rest of the people

just looked at me funny and Nate was just grinning ear to ear.

"I know what you mean I was struggling not to join in. The song does take me back though." Ryan said with a chuckle. "The only thing about being in Antoria is they have no idea what you are going on about half the time but I suppose it the same for us they'll talk about something and it won't make any sense." He sighed.

I laughed then turned to the old man who seemed to know so much. "Umm do you know what these markings mean?"

I got up and came close to me before tracing the marking with his fingers. Strange I didn't get the same tingling feeling as I did with Nate. "These my dear are the markings that appear when two mystics have bonded, when they find their soul mates so to speak. I've never seen it but then again we haven't had mystics for hundreds of years."Soul mates?? But I've only just met Nate, I hardly know him. I looked at Nate and he had the same wide eyed look I had.

"H-how can we be soul mates? We've only just met!"

"That has nothing to do with it. My guess is during you kiss your souls recognised their other half. It's quite simple to prove. I and any other person could touch your face and it would stay black but if Nathaniel here touches it ..." He pulled Nate towards me and gestured for him to touch my face. When he did I felt the tingling feeling again. "...It glows."

I didn't know what to feel. So much had happened in the last few days it was all a bit much to take in. I gripped hold of Nate and pulled him close to me. For some reason it just made me feel better even if things just seemed to be getting crazier each day. At that point my stomach decided to rumble.

"Umm don't suppose there's a chance of getting something to eat?"

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Chapter 12

Escape from Antoria part 12

Okay here is part 12 hope you enjoy. Just randomness so we'll soon see. Remeber to vote and comment to let me know what you think or become a fan if you really like the story lol Oh and anyone got any guesses on who the third part of the trinity is should be ?

Chapter 11

We all sat around a large campfire which I'm proud to say was lit by me. I felt the constant gaze of the other sorcerers but half of them were too afraid to speak to me. The elderly man was now conversing with Sam, the leader of the group, throwing me and

Nate cautious glances every few minutes before becoming engrossed in the conversation again.

A woman walked towards me and handed me a bowl of ...I think its rice...can't be sure.

"Ari, is that right?" I nodded as I took the bowl from her hands. "I'm Ingrid and that over there" Pointing to Sam the leader. "-is my husband."

I smiled and nodded my head in greeting. "Nice to meet you Ingrid. You're the first woman I've spoken to since I arrived in this dimension so it's a pleasure to meet you."

"So you're the one that will be leading us into the battle." I nodded. "Well let's hope for all of our sakes that the king isn't a strong sorcerer or we might not make it out alive." I felt my blood run cold at this. Then I thought about the prophesy that they all believed in.

"The prophesy says we'll defeat him so we will."I said trying to reassure her. "As soon as the third part of the trinity arrives we will ready."

She didn't look convinced. "That's assuming the third person ever arrives what if they are captured before they even get here. What if they are killed by the king?"

"Don't worry they will get here. Might not be for a while but they will come, I have it from a good source that they will come."

"Really? How do you know?" He eyes beginning to light up with hope.

"We met the reincarnation of the ancient mystic's prophet." I said my voice full of confidence. "It's how we found you guys."

Her eyes went like saucers. "Wow." You'd think from her reactions that I was the elder of us two. I held back a chuckle as I quietly regarded her. She shook her head. "Sorry here's me talking away and I've got to dish out dinner to the rest of the troops." With that she just turned and walked away as if we'd never spoken at all. Okay. Ooh that reminds me battle...fighting...I can't fight...crap.

"Nate?" I asked in a sickly sweet tone. Nate's head snapped round from the man he'd been talking to.

"Yes Ari?" He asked suspiciously.

"Nate do you think you could...teach me how to fight? I've already told you might right hook sucks, well that pretty much goes for all of my fighting skills. So do you think you could teach me?" I asked batting my lashes at him. He considered for a moment.

"On one condition." He said a wide grin spreading across his face. What is he up to?

"What's that?" I asked suspiciously.

"You have to kiss me as payment. So for every ...hmm let's say every hour I teach you I get a kiss." He said with a mischievous grin plastered on his face. OK he didn't have to use that as a bargaining chip I already want to kiss him again but her at least I've got an excuse for doing it.

"Hmm...I don't know you drive a hard bargain...OK...it's a deal. Do you want to shake on it?" I said offering him my hand. Instead Nate ignored my hand and traced the markings on my face so that I

could see a blue glow out of the corner of my eye. He suddenly leant forward so that his lips brushed against my ear causing shivers of pleasure to flow through me.

"How about we kiss on it?" Before I could even respond Nate captured my lips in his. I closed my eyes as I felt my markings on my face and back tingle, my hands entwined in Nate's hair. As I fully embraced the kiss my tongue begging for entrance to Nate's delicious mouth, I moved one of my hands to Nate's face and began to trace the markings so that his markings glowed but in the bright crimson that stood out against his tanned skin. All of a sudden as Nate allowed me entrance I felt power surge through Nate and I like we were connected. It warmed me to the core so that I felt nothing but bliss.

I felt the ground gently move beneath my feet and gasps from around us. I snapped open my eyes to look at the ground and saw that the once muddy patch was now covered in lush green grass and new flowers beginning to bloom. I then looked for the source of the gasp but as I looked up I too let out a

gasp, there were leaves dancing around Nate and I in intricate patterns as if being moved by an invisible force. I glanced at Nate because he has the ability of telekinesis but he was simply staring at me with adoring eyes and he was ... glowing... not bright lights glowing, the glowing you can see but it was more as if I could feel it. Wow must be a better kisser than I thought. Okay I think Nate and I have shocked the crowds enough for today.

"Nate? Umm do you think you can stop making leaves move in pretty patterns? I think the audience is freaking out." Nate suddenly snapped his head round and saw the leaves swirling in the air.

"Sure." With that he let go of me making me suddenly crave to be back in his arms. He then turned and lifted up his right arm before slowly bringing it down to his side. At the same time the leaves began to gently fall to the floor. I chuckled at our audiences shocked and awed looks. I'm guessing that doesn't happen whenever they kiss. "So the deal is done then. We'll get some sleep but first thing in the morning we will be training." Nate said with a huge

smile. I can't wait for training I get to kiss him again...God what is happening. I'm like...addicted to Nate.

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Chapter 13

Escape From Antoria Part 13

Part 13 Felt bad for not writing any of this one and writing loads of Truth or Dare. Not much happening just a bit of a filler whilst I think of what's going to happen next. Anyways vote and comment to let me know what you think.

Chapter 12

The next day I awoke as the sun began to splinter through the trees. I yawned as I stretched out my tense muscles. Sleeping on the ground was soo not doing me any favours. I looked around for Nate and saw that he was sound asleep not even a metre away.

He looked kind of like a warrior angel with the markings on his face. Even so he looked beautiful.

I stared at his sleeping form before deciding its time he woke up so he can start lessons I'll need lots of practice if we are to stand a chance. I walked over to him and nudged him but he didn't even budge.

"Nate...Nate!...NATE!!" I shouted in his ear but he simply grunted and rolled onto his side. Oh no, you don't. I rolled him onto his back and then straddled him. Let's see if this will wake up sleeping beauty. I leant down and pressed my lips to his. I felt my lips tingle as they made contact and Nate immediately stirred. I pulled back as his eyes opened and smirked at the confused expression on his face.

"Wake up sleeping beauty; it's time for us to start training."

"Why are you waking me up so early?"

"Because we need to do lots of training because I don't want to die and I know you don't want me to either. So get up and you'll get another kiss. Fair?" His

eyes lit up and this and he quickly pushed himself off the floor landing with a thud. Damn him.

Nate looked down at me with an amused smirk. "Well are you coming or not?" Damn him.

I quickly got up and brushed myself off. I then grabbed his hand and dragged him to the tree on the other side of the camp. I pushed for about a minute before we came to a clearing that was about half the size of a football pitch (soccer to Americans).

"I think this will do and we're still inside the boundary of their warning system so we shouldn't set it off." I said looking up at Nate. He just nodded his head as he glanced around quickly before facing me once again.

"It will do. Now I want to see what powers you have because I think there is a lot more than just fire with you." He looked deep in thought for a moment. "When we are kissing, your powers as well as mine seem to exhibit without thought. Maybe we should try that first." Is he seriously thinking we should kiss just so he can figure out my powers? I don't think so.

"- Close your eyes Ari and think about all of the emotions you feel when we kiss." OH, I can do this.

I started thinking about our kiss and immediately I felt a tingling running up my arms from my fingers that seemed to spread throughout my whole body right down to my toes so that I felt that I was electrified. Wow it felt incredible.

"Ari...Stop." Nate said whilst spluttering. My eyes snapped open to see him there soaked down to the core. Oops. "It's not oops Ari you got me soaked" Hey, I didn't say that out loud did I? No I didn't.

Nate looked at me confused. "No you didn't say that out loud because your lips weren't moving and yet I still heard you." Whoa Nate's a mind reader. Oh crap this is not good, it's bad enough I'm in another world wearing clothes that aren't even my own stuck in the middle of a forest but now Nate can read my thought oh joy! Now nothing will be private like me talking to myself, like right now.

I looked up at Nate to see he had a huge smile plastered on his face that made him look beautiful as

his whole face lit up. His grin suddenly got wider. Dammit.

"You heard that didn't you?"

"Yup." He said cheerily. "And I think I worked out your powers. You have fire, water and earth so im guessing you'll probably have air too. I'm guessing you're one of the most powerful mystics that there ever was...the elemental." Oooh sounds cool.

"If I'm and elemental what does that make you, a tele... something cos you can do telekinesis and you're a telepath."

"I don't know but still they're pretty cool." He had a huge grin on his face. "Right now I want you to see if you can do air. Close your eyes and do it again but think about air."

I did as he told me and I felt the tingling flow through my body. I then thought about air and was pleasantly surprised when my hair began whipping round my face. I opened my eyes and saw Nate with a huge grin on his face.

"I guess you got that one down. We probably need to work on controlling your powers, making them do whatever you want but at least we know what you can do. Okay lets get on to self defence. I want you to punch me."

I raised my eyebrow at him. Is he serious? "You want me to punch you?"

"Yep." Have it your way.

I curled my hands into fists then threw them at Nate. Before I came into contact with his face he caught my wrist and examined my fists." Not bad just make sure you don't flick your elbow when you punch as that might cause you more damage the person you are hitting and make sure you keep your thumb out, if you tuck it in then you might break it but other than that you're ok." I smiled.

"So what do we do first?" Nate just got a big grin on his face.

"We need to fitness so you're going to do laps."I groaned. I swear he's doing this on purpose.

"No I'm doing what you asked for... to train you to be ready for battle."

I huffed. "Fine." I was just about to run laps when he pulled me back by the arm.

"I want my payment you promised me a kiss." He said with a smug grin on his face.

I smiled. "You're right I did." I leant towards him and he did the same closing his eyes. At the last minute I turned my face to the side and kissed him on the cheek. "There you go paid in full.

He grumbled and stormed off back to camp whilst I began to run laps. I chuckled to myself, it serves him right.

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Chapter 14

Escape From Antoria part 14

Hey here part 14. I hope you enjoy. Umm I would love if you could leave comments and let me know whether I should continue this story or not. Anyways Vote comment to let me know what you think :D

Chapter 13

I spent the next hour running before Nate decided to come back and be oh so supportive and ordered me to do press ups and sit up and god knows what else and I can say that by the time Nate said I could stop I was completely drained. Stupid arse, he's doing this on purpose I know it. And what's worse is he still demanded payment so I now owe him 4 kisses but he

said he said oh so graciously that I don't have to pay now I can pay later.

I walked off to the small slow moving river that ran alongside camp and stripped off so that I was only in my tunic and knickers. I splashed water on the front of the tunic to make sure it didn't go see through, thank god knowing my luck someone would walk past and get to see everything. I felt a blush form on my cheeks just thinking about it. Without a moment's hesitation, I jumped in the river and sighed as the cool water instantly washed away the hot and sticky sheen that had clung to my body. I dunked my head under the water and ran my finger through my wet locks.

As I came back up for air I was suddenly splashed in the face as someone jumped into the river. I spluttered wiping at y face before scanning the water looking for the person responsible. Next thing I know I feel my head being dunked. I quickly burst up from the water to hear someone laughing at me. I move the wet hair that now covers my face to see Nate clutching his sides and letting off loud booming

laughs. I don't know what he's laughing at. I closed my eyes and thought about water before reopening my eyes and directing my power at Nate. Suddenly a huge wave emerges in front of me and moves towards Nate with such speed that he doesn't see it. Seconds later he's stood there glaring at me as he coughs out a lungful of water. I just look up at him innocently.

Suddenly we are having a huge water fight and laughing our heads off. We're soon joined by the other sorcerers in camp and we split up into teams. I got up on some Ryan's shoulders and some girl called Sarah was up on Nate's. We had a big wrestling match thing and I won the first two and we were now on the final round. Me and Sarah were pushing and pulling whilst giggling like little girls. I pushed with all my strength and Sarah toppled backwards into the water. Ryan and I cheered holding our arms in the air. Bad idea because Nate rushed forward and pushed me off of Ryan's shoulders so that I landed in the water with a splash.

I stood up and spat out the water and then smirked at Nate. Oh you are so gonna get it. He started to run away but I called on my powers so that the water swept him off his feet and dragged him to me but left everyone around us still standing and looking at us with amusement on their faces. Nate tried to stand up but I just tackled him down and then put him in a headlock.

"This dear, is what you get for messing with Arianna." I said whilst laughing my head off. I was suddenly cut off when Nate manoeuvred out from under my arm and then picked me up bridal style.

"Nate put me down now or I'll show the moves my brother taught me." He just laughed at this.

"As you wish oh mystic one" And he just let go of me so I splashed into the water. Oh he is soo dead. I tucked my head down and charged at Nate in a rugby tackle and was oh so pleased when I knocked him off his feet. Bet he didn't see that one coming.

I started getting cold so I climbed out of the water and began putting the rest of my clothes back on. This is going to drive me nuts. I'm going to smell so

bad by the time I go back home, if I ever get back. I sighed. I wonder if my mum ever got that money from the TV show. And what about my brother is he even alive? I felt tears threatening to spill so I quickly wiped then away and got changed and then walked back to camp with a fake smile plastered on my face.

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Chapter 15

Escape From Antoria Part 15

Chapter 14

That night I was just settling down underneath my cloak to sleep when a loud high pitched wail broke through the air. What the hell was that? I sat bolt upright and glanced around only to see everyone jumping to their feet, the women instantly packing up the campsite whilst the men got in fighting stances before the five who had collected me and Nate the other day walked to the trees before dissolving into blackness. Oh, now I realise where I heard that sound, it's the early warning system.

One of the women grasped a bucket of water and doused the fire so that I was engulfed in darkness.

"Nate?" I whispered. My voice came out a bit panicky. What can I say I've never been ambushed before or been on the verge of being caught by people who would kill you without a seconds thought.

"Ari don't worry I'm right here." Nate said from beside me. I reached my hand out searched for his. I found it and gave it a squeeze in thanks. I went to let go but Nate just kept hold of it. He pulled me round and kissed me on the lips with such intensity that when he broke away I was gasping. WOW.

The sound of a twig snapping under someone's foot caused my body to stiffen and my head to snap towards the sound. I waited patiently for another sound to signal what was going on and who was invading our camp.

Bang. The silence was interrupted by a gun going off and was immediately followed by a gasp as it hit someone behind me. I felt anger rush to me; there is no way they are taking us down like we are animals they can exterminate. I knew we were surrounded

but I didn't care. I called on fire and willed it to take solid form and was not surprised when a bow made entirely of fire appeared in my hands a second later. I raised the bow and pulled an arrow that had simultaneously formed in my other hand, into place on the string of fire. I pulled back the string and then thought crap I can't see them but now because of the light from the bow they can see me.

"Nate? I need you to tell me where to aim; I'm sure if you can read my mind you can read theirs so I'll fire and you use your powers and direct it towards a target. Got it? Good." With that I released the flaming arrows which flew through the darkness and turned abruptly after a second, immediately imbedding itself in a target.

Another arrow appeared on the bow as soon as the previous one was released I pulled back the string but another bang went off and a whiz went straight past my head missing me by millimetres.

I cussed a few times. That was too close for my liking. "How the hell do they have guns anyway?" I said aloud.

"What the hell is a gun?" Nate asked from beside me.

"The thing that just went bang is a gun. I'm afraid to say it's a horrible contraption from my world." I replied my voice grim. I just hope magic is better than fire power.

All of a sudden the trees rustled from all around us and I heard dozens of boots rushing towards us from all directions. Oh crap. This really is an ambush. The boots didn't pause but I couldn't see where they were so I grabbed the arrow of the bow and thought of it as an orb before launching it into the air. It hung steadily above camp so that it was entirely illuminated and I could see that all of the sorcerers were in a circle their backs facing inwards all of them wearing a look of pure determination. In the centre of the sorcerer circle laid Ingrid who was clutching her side, her face contorted in pain. Now I am seriously pissed off, she is too nice to hurt.

I growled and focused on the gun in each of the ambushers' hands, i willed the fire to work its magic and seconds later all of them dropped their guns with a yelp. Serves them right, guns are just cheating.

The ambushers took this as a signal to rush forward. They unsheathed swords that had been hanging at their sides and began to attack the sorcerers.

I immediately transformed my bow and arrows into a flaming sword and rushed forward to meet the attackers with Nate at my side. He didn't have any weapons he just waved him hand and 2 of the men who had been charging at him flung into each other before sailing backwards into a tree. That's my man.

I snapped round when I heard someone groan in pain behind me in time to see Ryan being run through with a blade. Oh no you don't. I shrieked a cry that was filled with intense anger and allowed a fireball to form in my hands. I watched at Ryan's attacker's eyes widened. I allowed the fireball to get a few times bigger before I launched it at the man who stabbed Ryan. He immediately became engulfed in flames and began shrieking in pain. I called upon the wind element and used it to push the screaming man into a tree so that he was knocked on conscious. I then used water to put him out. What? It smelt horrible.

I suddenly heard footstep running towards me and then something whistling through the air. I jumped to the side but not far enough as I felt something stab into my arm. I turned to pull it out and saw that it was a dart. Oh shit. I immediately began to feel drowsy my limbs becoming heavy.

"Nate..." I whispered before my eyelids became so heavy that I could no longer keep them open and my whole body became limp so that I dropped to the ground with a thud.

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Chapter 16

Escape From Antoria part 16

Okies part 16 of Escape to Antoria dedicated to MRS_SAL whose really great comments made me want to write more. So here we go hope you enjoy it. Happy Xmas! Remember to comment, vote or become a fan to let me know what you guys think :) xx

Chapter 15

Ari's POV

All I could see was darkness and all I could hear was silence. Damn was I dead. Oh god I am dead. I could feel myself start to panic so I took a few breaths to calm myself. OK the arrow, dart thing; bastards

probably drugged me. I hope they got rid of those horrible people, I hope Ingrid is alright. Those people bet hope she is alright or I will break their legs when I wake up...if I wake up. I seriously gotta stop being so pessimistic.

Nate's POV

Ari was just laid there on the ground, her chest slowly rising and falling. She looked so peaceful I was just anxious for her to wake up. One of the guys in the camp, a doctor I think he said he was, told me she'd wake up soon but from the looks of it she wasn't going anywhere fast. I walked over to her and then crouched down beside her picking up her small delicate hands in my own and gently rubbing my thumb in circles over her hand.

Ari's breathing suddenly changed as if the haze of drugs had worn off. She groaned and shifted before her whole shifted and fire passed through the hand that was connected to mine. I let go of her hand to find that it was still connected by a string of light and power. Now most people would have been freaking out but for some reason it just felt ...right. I grasped

her hand tightly in mine again, I was frozen in amazement as I saw the tattoos spreading across her visible flesh even spreading across her hands. I watched as the same seem to happen to mine and the tattoo stretched down my arms and across my chest.

The fire I felt in out connection became even more powerful and I felt myself being pulled into unconsciousness.

Ryan's POV

I watched as Nate leant over Arianna and kissed her on the forehead. Suddenly I felt a wave of power brush over me, I glanced around to see everyone else had confused expressions on their faces except the old man who simply nodded towards where Ari and Nate were. Where I looked over I saw the most amazing sight ever. Ari and Nate's bodies were intertwined with each other in a somewhat loving embrace yet neither seemed to be conscious. They were both floating a few feet of the ground and were surrounded by a weird bubble or force field that was made up of the all the different colours of the rainbow. I've never seen anything like it.

I cautiously walked over to the pair and I gasped when I saw the tattoos; the intricate tribal designs that now completely covered their entire bodies . Wow, they looked incredible. I reached my hand forward towards the force field cautiously but it was if my hand was moving through thin air nothing blocking it but it never got any closer to the pair. Whoa this is some strange stuff. I wonder what the hell is going on, bet old man knows.

"Hey Graham, what the hell is going on?"

The old man just laughed. "Don't worry you'll see. This is a once in the lifetime thing, it's not often mystics find their other half." Yeah like that helps.

I turned back to the pair and then sat down on a log a few feet away and watched entranced as the two bodies slowly revolved and every few seconds sparks of lights would flow through the weird bubble.

Ari's POV

I kept this nonstop mumbling in my head for hours until the darkness disappeared and I could finally I could hear the faint murmurs of people around me. I

felt the faint touch of someone caressing my hand and then slight pressure before fire shot through my veins and my skins felt like it was electrified with tingles shooting across the surface. The darkness disappeared and I appeared on some strange cliff top. What the heck. I turned and faintly recognised the area below. I was on top of the white witches cliffs in Northern Antoria, the rumoured home of the ancient mystic temple, but why would my dream bring me here I've never been here before so there's got to be another reason.

I heard the sound of rubble crunch under someone's foot behind me and was shocked to see a completely naked Nate. What the hell? I know he's meant to be my soul mate or whatever but I just met him I shouldn't be seeing him naked. I quickly covered my hand with my hands.

"Nate? Why the hell are you naked?"I shouted at him.

"What-Oh my god. Doesn't matter anyway I'm not the only one naked." He said his voice full of amusement. I looked down at myself through my fingers and saw that yes I was completely naked. God this is soo

stupid, I'm on a cliff completely naked with my supposed soul mate that is also naked. You can't get much better than this.

I didn't bother to cover myself up no point he's seen everything and I've seen everything. He seemed to be missing something though. "Nate your tattoos are gone."I said my eyes flickering to the places where they should be.

"Yeah yours are gone too. But I'm guessing this is just a dream anyways so they'll probably still be on our bodies." He replied.

"What the young man says is true." Came and eerily sweet voice from behind Nate. I looked towards the voice and saw an elderly woman carrying a bundle slowly making her way towards us. "Greeting my children, I am Aurora the spirit guide to the mystics. As you know you two are soul mates and you've been brought here as its time for the final bonding ceremony where you two will become one... Follow me." She said chuicking a bundle at each of us and then backing away from the cliff edge. This is soo strange.

I unravelled the bundle to see that it was a long red cloak with a hood. I hastily threw it over my shoulders and brought the hood up over my head. I looked up at Nate who was wearing a similar cloak to mine but it was blue. I looked into his eyes then gave a shrug and followed the old woman away from the cliff top.

The old lady stopped after 5 minutes in an area that was rocky as the cliff but was also surrounded by a thin line of trees. In the centre there was a small fire that was surrounded by logs so it looked like a mini camp fire. As I got closer to the fire I saw that each log had a small stone on it with a different symbol on it. This must be a ritual site or something.

"Come over here dears." Aurora said stopping next to the fire and indicating to a large stone set before it that had a symbol that looked like two flowers intertwining. We both stood on it and stared at her expectantly. "Okay, join hands. This ceremony is kind of like a marriage except it is so much more powerful as it can never be broken because once bonded, if

your other half dies, you die." I gulped and looked up at Nate.

"I can't believe this, what if I die? I don't want you to die because of me!" I whispered to Nate.

"Then don't die." He responded plainly as he gazed deep into my eyes and grabbed my hands in his. I nodded slowly then looked at Aurora who was standing on the other side on the fire on another stone.

"I call upon the powers of the ancient mystics to bond these two souls together, to make the two become one. Let the great Rosmardin look down upon these two souls and bless them with good fortune." Aurora held up her hands to the sky and shut her eyes. Her lips were moving as if she was chanting under her breath. Her head snapped up but her eyes remained closed and Aurora began to dance round the fire in a mesmerising fashion that left you feeling awestruck. When she got to Nate and I she danced around us 3 times before stopping and laying her hands over our entwined hands then kissing our foreheads. "I

Aurora, spirit guide of the mystic do bless thy souls in the name of Rosmardin!"

I was startled as the fire behind Aurora roared up and the flames flickered and kept changing colours. wow!

Aurora snapped her head to the fire and her eyes widened in shock before she closed them as if she seemed to be listening. What the heck! When she opened them again she had a huge smile on her face. "You two have been especially gifted by the great Rosmardin and you will see this soon enough for yourselves young ones. To complete the ceremony and bond thy souls, you must seal it with a kiss."

I looked up at Nate who had a huge grin on his face that made his beautiful face glow. I couldn't help smiling myself at this. I looked up at Nate who smiled down at me and then used our still entwined hands to pull me closer and planted a not so chaste kiss on my lips sending fireworks through my body.

Something deeper happened as well leaving me feeling as though I was finally complete. When I pulled away I still saw the multi-coloured lights but I

was no longer on the cliff top and I was no thankfully fully dressed. I felt strong arms around me and yet still felt my hands entwined in someone else's hands. I glanced at my hand and saw that round my wedding finder there was now an intricate design that looked as if I had a wedding band there. It was beautiful.

I looked up at the owner of the hand that was entwined in mine to see Nate's smiling face looking down at me roving all over my body before his eyebrows rose up into his hairline in shock. I followed his gaze and saw a small bump under my tunic. What the hell?

I quickly pulled up my tunic to see my stomach was swollen and the skin was covered with intricate tattoos. I heard gasps from all around by I was too distracted to care. "Do you think this is what she meant by Rosmardin has gifted us?" I asked him, I mean jeez I looked a good few months pregnant and damn this sucks; I'm a bloody virgin for Christ's sake. I'm like the freaking Virgin Mary and my god I'm 18 I don't want a baby. I was hyperventilating by this

point but Nate calmly reached up one of his hands and brushed it down the side of my face.

"Don't worry Ari, I'm right here and I'm not going to let anything happen to you." He then leant down and placed a soft and tender kiss on my lips.

"Thank you Nate. " I whispered against his lips before breaking away at the sound of someone clearing their throats. I turned to look at Ryan.

"Care to explain what happened and how Ari suddenly looks about five months pregnant and how you both are now completely covered in tattoos?" Ryan burst out. Hmm where to start?

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Chapter 17

Escape From Antoria pary 17

okies part 17 just a bit of a filler. vote comment or fan me to let me know what you think :D

Chapter 16

I took a deep breath. Where the hell do you start when you don't even know what's going on yourself? I glanced down at my left hand to see the ring shaped tattoo that was still connected to the tattoos covering my entire body yet was totally separate. As if it was different. I swear when I look at it out of the corner it flashes with colour before going back to the plain black. Well one thing I know for sure is that Nate and I are bonded...married...soul mates. Jeez this sounds

like some crappy mills and boon romance novel...yuck. Never ever get stuck in hospital on a ward with old grannies, you might just have to resort to reading one to pass the time...trust me by the end you wish you had watched paint dry instead.

"Umm you could say that Nate and I are kind of...sort of ...married?! ...No that wasn't the word it was...bonded. Yeah and l] if he dies I die so yeah ...none of us are going to be dying especially now I'm pregnant. Jeez Rosmardin, hell of a time for a gift, just about to go into battle!"

"Who the hell is Rosmardin?" Ryan asked his brows knit together in confusion.

I didn't get a chance to answer; the old man did it for me. Still don't know his damn name...

"Rosmardin is the god of the ancient mystics...if she has truly gifted you with child then it means we can expect great thing from you two." Oh great more pressure!

"Okayyyyyyyyyy... well I just want to have this baby, get rid of the king, go back to England give my

parents the money so i can save my sister and then I can sit down and have a nice cup of tea. Great plan. So, how long do you think this pregnancy will last if I already look like I'm a few months gone, cos seriously I think my ankles are swollen and I really need a pee..."

"Umm at the rate you are progressing I would say a few weeks...most unusual but I think Rosmardin has something important planned for the two of you and your child... well we already know about the importance of you and Nate in the upcoming events but where does the baby fit in?... Never did understand the work of the Gods."

Well that helps he just left me with more questions than answers.

"Anyways, how is Ingrid last thing I saw she got shot, gunshot wounds are lethal." I asked, I hope she's OK, she's too damn nice to die.

"She's resting. The wound is unfamiliar and we don't know what caused it, I've never seen anything like it."Sam Ingrid's husband was the one who spoke up, his face somewhat ashen. I looked over at Ryan.

"Did you not hear the gunshot?" Ryan shook his head as his eyes widened in realisation.

"Gunshot?" Ingrid's husband asked.

"Yeah, guns are horrible forms of weaponry from my world. Damn can't they bring any of the good stuff here? Take me to Ingrid and I'll see if I can help you need to make sure the bullet is gone of it might cause her some serious damage." I said, damn I didn't know what to do but at least I know what I'm looking for.

"Okay follow me." Sam said leading me to a small shelter that had been built between two trees. A woman was tending to Ingrid who looked well...awful. I knelt down next to her and then raised her shirt to see her skin had been pierced in her stomach. God I hope it's missed her organs. I know there is a spot where it's fine if you get hit but 2 inches above it and boom you're practically dead already.

"Do you guys have any healing spells?" I asked Sam as I looked over at Ingrid who was unconscious but mumbling at the same time.

"Yeah but we can't use them until we know what is wrong." He replied. Well that's all fine and dandy.

"Right well, I'm gonna remove the bullet...um you got any sterile tweezers and rubber gloves so I can pull it out? You know a first aid kit?" I asked.

"Umm yeah I think we got one off of the strange travellers...I'll go get it." With that he rushed out from under the shelter. I picked up a cloth from a bowl of cool water that was lying next to Ingrid and placed the cool cloth across her brow. Man I'm like a proper nurse.

Sam came back not even a minute later with a small white box that had a reed cross on it. I snatched it from his hand and quickly opened it up searching frantically through the contents. I finally found some tweezers in some rubber gloves, good. I put on the gloves and then I got out an antiseptic wipe and cleaned around the wound. I discarded it on the floor and then took a few deep breaths. God this is soo scary.

"Sam can you get whoever it is that heals so that as soon as I remove the bullet you should be able to

heal it like any other wound." He nodded and rushed out of the tent calling someone's name as he went. He quickly returned with a woman by his side. "Right...I can do this...Yup ...I can do this..."

I sat up on my knees and then peered into the wound. Damn blood stops me from seeing anything. Damn my fingers are gonna have to do the job. Eep. I slowly extended my hand out and then gently inserted a few fingers into the wound. This is soo not gross at all. Surprised I haven't passed out yet cos damn I hate blood makes me feel all queasy.

I slowly navigated my fingers until I felt my fingertips brush something small hard and cold. "Okay I think I found it. Can you pass me the tweezers I don't want to stretch the wound trying to grab it with my hands." I felt cool metal being placed in my hands. I'm soo glad for the bright lights or I'd be totally screwed.

Using my fingers that were buried in the wound I directed the tweezers until I heard the faint noise of metal coming in contact with metal. Okay. I pulled one of my fingers out so I could see better and then

used the other two to keep the wound open. I then used the tweezers and carefully caught the expended bullet. Slowly I pulled it from of the wound and held it up triumphantly.

"Got it!" I looked over at the woman. "Right do your healing magic." I said as I cradled the bullet in my palm. I can't believe i did that.

"Looks like you did my job for me." A small voice said behind me. What the hell...who did what?

"What?" I asked

"Just what I said, she's all healed up, better than even I can do actually." I looked over at Ingrid and saw her once pale cheeks were flushed with colour and her blood streaked skin was now immaculate where the bullet had once been.

"H-How did that happen? Did you do that? Man that was fast I thought you had to do spells and stuff..."

"I didn't do anything...you on the other hand most definitely did"

Is she crazy I was too focused on the damn bullet and surely I would have noticed if I did magic. "I didn't do anything and neither did you...then who did?" I got my answer from the strange feeling that swept over me as I felt the baby move in my stomach. It was like I could feel the magic the child already possessed. I wouldn't be surprised if my hair was standing on end because of the energy that was surging within my stomach. "Actually, I think it might have been ...her..." I said pointing at my stomach.

"B-but...no it couldn't be...that's impossible!! Sorcerers and any other magic folk only come into their powers at eighteen. Your child isn't even born yet...impossible." Sam kept muttering. Damn idiot could keep muttering impossible but I knew it was the truth.

"Then feel this." I said grabbing his hand and lying it on my stomach which now that I looked at it seemed to have gotten bigger. Dude this baby is gonna give me stretch marks. I watched as Sam's face went from confused to a mask of total and complete shock.

"Oh my god, this child truly is a gift from Rosmardin. You don't think that ...the child could be the third? The prophesy did say it would swiftly follow after the two became one." I had to stop myself from singing Spice Girls at this. Then the impact of his words weighed in. Could my unborn child really be the third part of the trinity? I don't see why the hell not. Damn it I've managed the whole Immaculate Conception so don't see why she couldn't be special.

"I don't know. I did get pregnant without ever doing the deed so yeah don't see why not but don't set your hopes on it there's a chance that she might not be the third part of the trinity." I said as I rubbed my stomach absently.

"She??" Sam asked looking at me somewhat quizzically.

I just shrugged my shoulders. "Felt bad calling it 'it'."

I heard a groan emanating from Ingrid and managed to look up in time to see her eyes flicker open.

"Sam?" She asked her voice strong as ever not even sounding like she had even been injured.

"I'm here honey." Sam said with relief spreading across his features and a smile tugging at his lips. "Are you Ok?"

"I feel fine, better than I have in years actually even my bad back feels great and I owe it all to the little one. " Ingrid said looking directly at my stomach. She steadily got up off the ground but not without Sam hovering over her tentatively. She walked towards me and smiled before crouching in front of me. "Thank you Isadora, gift of Isis and Rosmardin. You have saved my life." She cooed.

"Isadora?" I asked. Who the hell is Isadora?

"It's her name. It actually means gift of Isis which is the name of Rosmardin in the human world." She replied dreamily. "i heard her in my head. She healed me."

"Whoa but Isis is like THE Egyptian goddess in my world. This is soo cool. So I'm having a girl? Wow can't wait." I was bouncing about eagerly. Sam looked as if he was trying to repress a smile.

"Right ladies we need to get moving. The opposition knows where we are so the King will send his top forces next time. Whether he knows about you and Nate or not, they have spotted the largest group of sorcerers ever so we know they will be back with force so we need to move." Sam said ruining the happy mood that had descended upon us.

"OK I will go and get Nate and let him know, neither of us have much to pack I mean I can't even wear half my clothes cos the bump gets in the way. Who the hell comes up with this spontaneous bump stuff anyways. Jeez. I'm dreading what I'm gonna look like tomorrow."

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Chapter 18

Escape From Antoria part 18

Okies another short chapter but I got bored so I wrote something. Not sure where I'm going with this story but I know there is going to be a battle and stuff and yeah thats about as much as I've planned ahead lol. Anyways hope you enjoys this chap, no guarantee's that it's any good I just made random stuff up. Vote comment or fan me to let me know what you think :D:D:D Happy New Year

Chapter 17

I was lying under the same stars but miles from our previous location. We had packed up and moved on quicker than I thought possible but hey they're

sorcerers. After over 12 hours of walking we arrived at the other sorcerer camp. This followed with another squealing session when I recognised someone else from the show who I had also thought had died off and then there was the gasping and such from the sorcerers over mine and Nate's tattoos. Jeez I wish people would get over it I mean I think Nate looks like some warrior angel minus cos damn he looks like he dropped from heaven. Cheesy I know but he looks so beautiful and he is all mine. I catch Nate smiling as I think this.

"are you reading my mind again?!?!" I whispered harshly but had a slight smile in my voice. Although I wish some thoughts were private it's quite funny when we have a conversation but only he's talking so people in the camp give him funny looks. It's great he looks like he's ready for the loony bin cos it looks like he talking to himself.

"Hey it's not funny when people look at me like I'm crazy cos I'm reading your thoughts cos you're being too bloody lazy to talk." I snorted. What an idiot, my idiot. Jeez I find out we're soul mates and now we're

married after about a week and I turn all soppy. If I start calling him honey or pookie or something equally disgusting I think I'll hurl. Eww, I really hate pet names. Don't know what it is but someone calls me babe and I really want to hit them. Anger issues? Me? Pffft, not at all.

"Don't worry if you keep out of my head then I'll have to talk. But don't worry if they do lock you up in an asylum, I'll come and visit on your birthday." I said with a smile not that he could see it. I shivered as wind blew past me causing Goosebumps to form on my arms. I shifted. This bloody bump gets in the way cos now I can't sleep on my stomach like I usually would so I can't get bloody comfy and only my tunic fits me now so I'm practically wearing a dress in bloody winter; the joys of spontaneous pregnancy.

"Ooh you are so gonna get it." He said in a tone that I didn't like much, it means he is up to something. I didn't get long so contemplate this as I was forced into uncontrollable fits of laughter as Nate tickled me. Soo glad he can't get to my feet. I was struggling

to breath from the laughter and I swear I'm gonna pee myself.

"N-Nate s-stop...I-I c-can't...breathe." I gasped between giggles. "Oww...i-it hurts...haha."

Nate rolled away from me trying to control his own laughter. So not funny now i need a pee and I really don't want to move as I've finally got comfy on the hard ground. "Nate help me up." He reluctantly got up and then pulled me to my feet. "Thanks, be back in a sec, pregnant lady seriously needs to pee."

I disappeared behind the bushes on the other side of the camp and took care of business. I still hate this camping crap but what choice do I have. I mean does it hurt to have toilet paper but no never heard of the damn stuff in this bloody world. Idiots!!!

I was just about to head back to camp back to the main camp when I heard a twig snap behind me. I stopped walking and locked every muscle in my body so I resembled a statue. Oh shit. Who the hell could that be? The alarm system didn't go off or I would have heard it. Oh damn I'm gonna get killed by a big

bear or something. Another twig snapped but was close, too close. I whipped around ready

to use magic if I had to but was relieved when I saw the familiar face behind me.

"Blake?" I asked just to check it was really him.

He nodded. "Hello Ari, you look more beautiful than ever." He reached up and traced my marking that wore tattooed across my face. "And Rosmardin has gifted you as I foresaw. I must say that you are glowing." I felt a blush form on my cheeks. What? It was sweet. "Your child will be born in two days. The process was speeded up by the God because of the circumstances but the child will be healthy and as remarkable as her parents. The next time I see you will be the battle. You must not lose sight of Nathaniel or Isadora, along with you they are the key to winning this war. If one of them perishes before the dark king is defeated, then he and his darkness will win and all hope will be lost. The future of Antoria rests in your hands your majesty. You will be Queen of Antoria if everything goes right. It will be an honour to fight for you in battle. Keep safe and

most importantly trust yourself. I know you still doubt the words of the prophesy, but I know that the goddess will guide you if you only believe. Goodnight my Queen." With those last words Blake hugged me and then left me standing alone in the darkness as he dissolved into the desolate blackness. Queen?? Are you bloody kidding me?!?!?!?!?!

I just want to win this battle and then go home to my family. I hope they are well, with everything that happened I've completely forgotten about the thing that sent me here in the first place. And I've probably lost my job. Grr, stupid Blake and the stupid prophesy. I just hope they did actually get that money or Holly might not make it and I'll be damned if I let my little sister die because I couldn't get the money in time. With new resolve I headed back to the camp. At least I know how long I have this bump for I seriously cannot handle the really weird cravings, seriously who wants to dip a Big Mac into custard?!

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Chapter 19

Escape from Antoria Part 19

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part 19 hope you like it :D

Chapter 18

For the last two days we travelled through the Antorian forests so that we joined up with all of the other sorcerer groups that were hiding from the King. The place where we were currently camped is just outside the capital where the king's castle is. Me well I resemble a whale, add a blowhole to my back and I'll look just like one and guess what according to Blake, my due date is today, Yay!! Note the sarcasm. I don't like to whine but my feet are killing me and apparently they are swollen not that I can tell

considering I can't actually see my feet. Everyone in camp is on their edge of their seats for both the battle and the birth of my child, even Nate is getting on my nerves with all the coddling, damn it I'm pregnant not an invalid.

I was sat there gazing aimlessly at the fire when I felt as if I peed myself and pain coursed through me. Oh hell no!!! This bloody hurts!!! I couldn't speak or move as the pain coursed through my lower back, damn this is like period pain times a million. As soon as the contraction eased I screeched between breathes that were more like pants. "Nate!!!"

Nate who had been talking to Sam on the other side of the camp rushed over to me. "Are you Ok Ari?" He asked in a calm caring voice.

"NO I'M NOT BLOODY OK YOU IDIOT!!" I shouted at him. "I'M HAVING THE BABY YOU HALFWIT!!!" I screeched at him. Damn I've only had one contraction and I'm raving like a lunatic and from what I've heard they get worse and last longer and the last one went on for a minute and to think I could go a good nine hours in labour, oh joy !!

Nate looked at me startled but others who had heard my raving came over and put me onto a makeshift stretcher and carried me over to some little tent thing they had prepared for me. They had just settled me down on what was their version of a bed when the next contraction coursed through me so I grabbed the hand that was closest to me and squeezed for dear life. I heard a creaking of their bones but I was in too much pain to care. Totally sucks, usually a woman gets to complain at the man saying YOU DID THIS TO ME!! Well the only person I can complain to is a God and I really don't want the wrath of the God on me. When the contraction ended I was breathing heavily and I released the hand I had crushed and looked up at the owner to see Ryan cradling his hand.

"Sorry...but this ...bloody hurts..." I said between breaths. I slumped back onto the bed and tried to steady my breathing. Something tells me this is going to be a long night.

A few hours later, I slumped back onto the bad panting. Nate brushed a cool cloth across my forehead which felt heavenly.

"Ok Ari, you're almost there, on the next one I want you to give one huge push and give it everything you've got." Ingrid said to me with concentration. Oh hell no, I can't do this anymore!!

"I can't do this...I can't..." I cried tears running down my face. I sweaty and exhausted and they're trying to make me push out a watermelon. It's just not physically possible.

Nate kissed me on the forehead. "Ari you can do this... I know you can...just one more... I'll be right here with you OK?" I looked into his eyes and thought what the heck I've gone for this long, one more won't kill me.

"Ok" I whispered just before the next contraction hit. I used all of the energy I had left in me and pushed with all my might. When I was done I slumped back on the bed.

"Congratulations you have a baby girl!" Ingrid said with a smile. A gave a faint laugh as I heard the cry emanating from my baby girl. All of a sudden I felt a wet little body laid on my chest with a blanket laid over her. "Don't worry this is normal we just do it to create the bond between mother and child." Ingrid explained but it sounded like background noise as I looked down at the beautiful little baby in front of me.

"My little girl...Isadora...Izzy..." I smiled down at the little girl in my arms she was incredible. A real miracle. Nate kissed my forehead before kissing Izzy's little head.

"My beautiful girls." He whispered in awe.

Ingrid took her from me to clean up the baby and I laid back and let my eyes drift closed I felt like I could sleep forever.

When I awoke, Nate was sat beside me cradling the little girl in his arms and I was now changed in something else. What the hell? These people are sly but hell I was out for the count I don't think they could have woken me up even if they tried.

"How is my little girl?" I asked as I peacefully watched Nate cuddle her to his chest.

He jumped a little at the sound of my voice but then smiled up at me. "She's perfect, although there is one thing..." Nate said. Oh my god is something wrong with her?!

Nate saw my stricken face and chuckled lightly. "It's nothing bad but ...she doesn't have the mark...well she does have a mark but not the mark of the trinity." He finished.

"Let me see!!" I said. Nate carefully handed me the baby. I looked down at the intricate pattern that was similar to Nate and mines tattoos but they were on her hands swirling delicately up her arms. Actually it kind of reminded me of the henna tattoo's Indian women get before the wedding but it also reminded me of the description for the healers markings in that little book the old man has. "Ask that old man for the book I want to check if I am right about something."

Nate disappeared a few minutes later with the book and the old man. I snatched the book out of his hand and flicked through the book until I came to the right

part and showed it to Nate. The picture matched her markings and yep there it was..."She's one of the healer's, which explains her healing Ingrid...but I don't get it I thought she was meant to be the third part of the trinity-"

"No, I never said she was the third part of the trinity just that she was important." Came a voice from the doorway. I whipped my head round to see Blake cradling a girl. No it couldn't be?

"Holly?!" I whispered my voice choking up so it came out mumbled.

Blake nodded. "Yes" He laid Holly down next to me and I watched as Isadora who barely a few hours old instinctively held out a hand to my little sister. I shifted so that I was closer to Holly and brushed hair out of her face. I watched as Izzy tried leaning out of my arms to get closer to Holly. "Blake? Lift Holly so that she is closer to Izzy." I said in a commanding voice.

He immediately did as he was told. I watched in awe as my baby opened her eyes for the first time and saw that they were a beautiful violet colour and were

totally focused on Holly as she touched her tattooed hands to her eyes. I watched as the sickly pallor that I had grown accustomed to seeing on Holly disappeared and a healthy glow took its place and a contented sigh past her lips which were no longer cracked and dry but were full and red. Her eyes flickered before she opened her eyes.

"Ari?" She asked in a voice that was stronger than I heard in a long time. I nodded. She tilted to the side.

"What's with all the facial art?" She chuckled and I couldn't help but smile back as I cradled Izzy to my chest.

"Long story H. I'd like you to meet some people." I said as I watched her sit up and warily eye the people around us before flicking her eyes back to me and the baby in my arms. "This here is my little girl Izzy and him over there, that's my soul mate Nate...or husband...it's hard to explain." When Holly looked at Nate her eyes widened.

"Oh my god I know him he was on that TV show!!! He was the prince or something." She squealed like a

little girl which is funny considering she's fifteen. I had to smile at her though.

"Yeah that's him though everything you saw in the show was real." I said gently trying not to freak her out.

"Really? That is soo cool!! Do you guys really have magic?" She asked eagerly which caused Ingrid and Sam to chuckle.

"Yes we do little one but the most powerful are your sister and Nathaniel." Sam said with a hint of amusement as he watched Holly's eyes widen.

"No way!!! This is soo cool. I go into a bloody coma for god knows how long and when I wake up you have magic so not fair." She said crossing her arms trying to look upset but not working because of the huge grin on her face. "By the way do you think I could get some better clothes this hospital gown is a bit breezy?"

She said as an afterthought. I had to laugh that's why O love my baby sis she's just random, wouldn't be

surprised if she started talking about something else completely random in a second.

I watched as she scratched her shoulder absently causing her hospital gown to fall to the side to reveal something all too familiar. I reached forward and pulled her gown to the side to reveal a tattoo that matched Nate and mines original tattoo.

"Oh my god..." I looked up at Blake. "Holly is the third part of the trinity??"

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Chapter 20

Escape From Antoria Part 20

Part 20. Don't know when I'll upload the next part cos I'm really busy this week so hope you enjoy!!

Chapter 19

Blake just smiled and nodded his head. "Yes she is the third person in the trinity." He then mussed up her hair giving a chuckle when she growled in protest. "I have to say there is no denying that she is your sister." He continued when she gave him a scowl that rivals my own. I couldn't help but laugh at this.

"What the hell is the trinity?"Holly asked, trying to act nonchalant but you could see the curiosity in her

eyes. I chuckled but then grew serious when she narrowed her eyes at me. Jeez, someone's grumpy.

"Blake care to explain?" I said whilst patting the bed next to me for Holly to sit on. Blake nodded so Holly sat next to me and rested her head on my shoulder as she gazed at the baby I still cradled in my arms. Nate came over and sat on my other side wrapping his beautifully tattooed arms around my body.

"Okay, where to start? ...Holly you have seen the Television show Escape from Antoria right?" Blake asked.

"Ooh yeah I used to watch it every day before I went in hospital. All the people with magic are on the run cos the king is evil but we all know he's really just scared of them. I think he has magic himself which was never proven in the TV series but he did things that just weren't logical. My guess is someone told him a sorcerer would defeat him or it could merely be the fear of being removed from the throne by someone more powerful." She replied with a shrug. My mouth just gaped. I knew Holly was observant but damn I didn't catch half of that.

Blake however had a pleased look on his face like she was a good student or something. Oh well. "Yes right you are. As I have explained before the King is a very powerful sorcerer...he was warned, by a prophet, that he would be defeated by three sorcerers of the old magic, these people would bare the marks of the trinity. Most sorcerers bare some kind of mark to show their magical heritage but the marks of the Ancient ones are very distinct." Blake removed his arm from his top and showed her his shoulder. "You have one too on your arm that will match Arianna and Nathaniel's marks."

Holly turned to look at me and I tilted my shoulder down. "Take a look if you like. I may have more markings now but I'm sure that I still have the original ones."

"Why do you have facial markings?" Holly asked cocking her eyebrow.

"I looked at Nate who was smiling, well we got ones on our face when we kissed and then the rest we got when we got married...so to speak. Which was about 3 days ago" I said to her.

"Yeah and what about the baby? I know I wasn't unconscious for nine months, was I?" She asked slightly confused but panicked at the same time. I suppose I'd be the same if I didn't know how long I'd been out.

"Umm, Izzy is what I'd call a miracle grow baby. I was pregnant for 3 days so don't worry you didn't miss much and I've been in Antoria for about, actually I don't know." I said confused. I looked up at Blake.

"It's been3 weeks since I took you from your home but you've been here in Antoria about 2 weeks." Blake responded. Not too bad seems like I've been here forever if I'm honest.

Holly however looked like she'd been smoking something as her eyes widened and she said. "Whoa, you go 18 years without a boyfriend and you're here for two weeks and you get married and pop out a kid. Jeez, Ari you work fast." I couldn't help but laugh at her.

"Umm kiddo, when you think of me and the baby...think virgin Mary" I said with a smile.

"What the hell is that meant to mean? You telling me you did do the down and dirty with your hot stuff husband?" I swear I could feel my cheeks on fire and I could hear Blake and Ryan's distinctive laughs at my discomfort.

"Holly!!!" I scolded blushing furiously. Holly response was a smirk and then she put on the oh so innocent look that I haven't seen in a while.

"What sis? I was under the impression that was something married people do and come on if you saw me with a baby what would you think?" She asked cocking her eyebrow at me. I know what I'd do, beat the bugger black and blue who got her pregnant.

"Sorry little H but seriously did you have to say it like that? Couldn't you think of something more polite than down and dirty? Jeez and mum thinks I have the dirty mind?!"I said before nudging her gently which earned me a smile.

"Sorry to break up the family bonding but I warned you that the next time I would see you would be in battle which is true. The King's men have been

following your group for days and now that you have settled..." Blake closed his eyes and his brows furrowed in concentration. "The Darkness is ready to rise, the King plans to attack tomorrow at nightfall; he has weapons that are not from this land. Some from the world that Ari and Holly are from and..." Blake gasped. "It's Blasphemous!! He also seeks help from the dark powers but as a last resort. If he detects that he will lose, he shall open the gateway to the daemonic realm. However, he has an army of over a thousand so he is confidant. I cannot predict the outcome of this great battle...it's too circumstantial...anything could tip the balance..." Blake shuddered and fell to his knees breathing deeply. I quickly handed Izzy to Nate and moved over to Blake. I put a hand on his shoulder.

"Blake?" I saw him instantly relax under my palm and then he lifted his head and opened his eyes.

"Arianna, you cannot allow him to open the gateway to the daemonic realm, the consequences will be unthinkable." Blake shuddered again. I'm guessing he saw the unthinkable consequences.

"I'll do my best." Even if I have to die for the cause, i thought to myself.

"You will not sacrifice yourself Arianna." Nate whispered in my ear. Oh crap forgot about the mind reading thing.

Sam who I had completely forgotten was still in the room cleared his throat. I snapped my head up to see his face ashen. "I will inform the others. We have much work to do if we are to be ready." And with that he grabbed Ingrid's hand and pulled her away from the group.

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Chapter 21

Escape from Antoria Part 21

Part 21 enjoy!!!

Chapter 20

We all spent the day preparing for the battle. Luckily for me, I was rewarded with new clothes, I looked like a proper warrior though they decided to give me body paint so now I look exactly like Keira Knightly in that film 'King Arthur'. I didn't bother much with weapons apart from a pair of daggers, one attached to each thigh. My hair was messily tied up and I had a thin piece of leather that wound around my wrist and up my arm and a matching strip of leather

around my neck. To say i looked bad ass would be an understatement.

Holly was also dressed like me but a more conservative version which I'm grateful for because the young sorcerers in camp had already been eyeing her up, stupid perverts. I pressed Isadora to my chest and rocked her back and forth and we slowly made our way to the capital where the Kings castle was situated.

I could feel the nerves pulsing through me and the wind that seemed to whip around me as if in a comforting embrace. We'd left everything we didn't need at the camp because it would have been too heavy to carry it all and we needed to get to the capital before the king was fully organised. I can't help but think though, what if it's a trap? What if he knows we are coming?

After 4 hours of walking the trees of the forest began to thin and the sound of the bustling towns began to float towards us in a low hum. I think I felt the castle before I saw it. I suddenly felt this darkness that filled me with dread and hopelessness. I heard Holly

gasp but that's to be expected as one of her abilities is that of an empath, so if I can feel it then I can only imagine it's a hundred times worse for Holly. I grasped her hand and she sighed with relief. Yeah well I was putting out some strong emotions right now; Love, contentment, joy... yeah I have fear and other bad emotions but for the sake of Holly I am focusing on the good ones.

As the last of the trees disappeared I couldn't help but gasp at the sight of the castle in the centre of the city. It kind of looked like the Disney castle but cloaked in darkness and shadows that gave it that eerie feeling. Sam called us back and we retreated back into the line of the trees so we wouldn't be spotted.

"You know the plans. You blend in with the people." Sam said tossing Holly and I some cloaks to cover our warrior attire. "Meet us at the gates of the castle. Team one you will take down any guards, don't be quick on the trigger there could be innocents inside and we don't want unnecessary death." A few people nodded at this. "Team 2 you will create shields for the

trinity and will clear the path to the throne room in the castle. I have a feeling that's where we will find the King. Good luck everyone and remember we only have one shot at this." With that Sam slung an arm around Ingrid's waist and walked towards the busy streets and disappeared into the crowds.

I pulled up the hood of the cloak so that my face was in shadows and Nate did the same next to me. Well I think people would stare if they could see the amount of tattoo's covering our bodies. The rest of the group split up and entered into the city from various points but all immediately blending in with the crowd.

Well here we go. I grasped Nate's hand and tugged him towards the city my heart pounding a mile a

minute. I could feel the elements stir so I took deep breaths to calm myself down.

As we entered the crowds I was overwhelmed but the various smells and sounds that came at me from all directions. The streets were fairly clean for a place that had no plumbing and no electricity. I could see the channel down the centre of the street which

made me retch from the foul smells emanating from it but I could see the genius of it because these channels only appeared on every couple of streets and they all seemed to be connected together in a huge maze that flowed out of town into the waste pit.

Luckily for me the smell of the stationary waste was overcome by the smell of freshly baked bread and pastries and we quickly moved onto the market street which fortunately didn't have any channels. I walked cautiously through the throng of people keeping my eyes out for anyone who might try and harm our group whilst also looking out for familiar faces of the people at camp who now kind of felt like my family. It's strange to think that I haven't been here very long and I've become so attached, I just don't think I'll be able to leave at the end of all this.

We spent the rest of the daylight hours milling through the endless streets before making our way to the castle just as the sun began to set. I could see the group situated in different points along the wall not that the guards took any notice; they probably thought it was any easy job and no one would dare

attack the King. Well they obviously haven't met me yet have they?

All of the sorcerers looked towards Sam who looked at me. I nodded as I removed the cloak and looked down at the sleeping Isadora on my chest. Blake was quite the genius to bring this baby carrier thing from our world because I now had my hands free to do some magic. I watched as Holly raised her hands and dark clouds began to cover the sky and mist spread out across the grounds giving us a heavy cover. Damn Holly get's the cool powers; though mine do kick ass too.

Team one stepped towards the huge wall surrounding the castle while team 2 stepped behind them. The people in front took on a fighting stance whilst the person behind them knelt down and placed their palms on the ground creating a platform which levitated both of the people up towards the awaiting guards.

Holly, Nate and I waited for Sam, Ingrid and Ryan who all stepped up behind us.

"You guys ready?" Sam asked and we all just nodded before Sam, Ingrid and Ryan knelt down next to each other and created a huge platform that lifted all of us up the top of the walls. If I wasn't on the edge of my seat right now I would have be jumping up and down like a little girl saying how cool it was but the sound of fighting in the proximity made me more wary and alert.

As soon as we reached the top of the wall they all leaped of the platform on I was a bit more careful because of the baby in my arms and I gently stepped off of the platform with more grace than I was accustomed to. As soon as my foot touched the hard stone of the battlement we were quickly charged at by the waiting guards. One pulled out a gun so I quickly used fire with a twitch of my hands to heat up the metal of the gun so that they dropped it with a yelp. Nate stepped forward with a small gesture with both hands the two guards in front smashed into each other so that they were unconscious.

We stood still and waited for the signal from the others that we had the all clear and then we slowly

moved towards the stairs that clung to the side of the wall. Along the way we met a few others and when we finally reached the stairs I had to let go of Holly's hand so we could go single file. At the bottom of the stairs a group of 20 sorcerers were stood there waiting for us.

It was getting harder to see as the sun was no completely gone and the last rays of gold were slowly turning into the inky blackness of night. We waited for the rest of the people to reach us trying to keep as quiet as possible so as to not alert the King of our presence. I turned to Ryan who was stood beside me and pulled him away from the group.

"Ryan can you do me a favour?" I asked him in a whisper. I knew Nate was listening to my thoughts but I didn't care I just wanted to make sure my family is safe.

"Umm sure." He said his eyes darting around looking for trouble.

"If anything bad happens to me and Nate...if anything happens make sure Holly and Izzy are safe." I said looking him in the eye. "Can you do that for me?"

"Yeah of course I will Ari." He said giving my arm a reassuring squeeze. "But nothing is going to happen to you and Nate I can feel it." It's strange, over the time I've spent with the sorcerer's, Ryan has become a great friend to Nate and I and I don't think I could trust anyone more with the thing that are most important to me aside from Nate. I heard Nate let out a sigh of relief at the same time I did.

We walked back to the main group and waited for instructions. Nate immediately started talking.

"Right there are two different ways to get to the throne room through the secret passageways. I know my dad doesn't know about them because he doesn't like to read and they hadn't been used for over 100 years by the looks of it when I discovered them so we should be safe enough to use them. Now one entrance is through the waterways and the other we have to go through the front door. Ari you'll have to take the front door we don't want the baby to catch a cold." I nodded. He then went on to give each group instructions of how to get into the secret passages and how to get to the throne room but I zoned it out.

I felt a wave of panic and fear hit me as realisation hit in. I could die and so could everyone I love...

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Chapter 22

Escape From Antoria part 22

PART 22!! ENJOY!

Chapter 21

I felt both Nate and Holly reach for my hands at the same time. Damn it's annoying having people who know exactly what you're feeling and thinking but it can't be helped.

"Come on its time." Nate said before tugging me and Holly towards the front entrance of the castle. If possible the castle felt more eerie and evil as the darkness deepened until you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. I felt myself being tugged towards the main entrance which looked like the

gateway to hell. I shuddered at the through and then pushed it out of my mind when I saw the look on Holly's face. I thought of the prophesy and my family and how we would survive this no matter what.

Inspired by these thought I picked up my feet so that I was now walking alongside him instead of being dragged by him. "You seriously lived?" I asked as I once again surveyed the creepy castle.

"Yup." He replied and then began talking in hushed tones. "Right keep to the shadows we want to remain unseen for as long as possible. With that we walked through the huge doorway that looked like a giant gaping hole that was just waiting to swallow us whole. I blindly followed after Nate who didn't go far before he stopped next to a suit of armour. Using his magic he moved it out of the way and pressed a certain brick. I watched in amazement when about 5 paces away a doorway opened up. "Follow me and stay silent." Nate then disappeared behind the stone door and into the passage behind it. Holly and I were next followed by the rest of our group.

Once we were all inside the passages, Nate shut the door and your cool hear the slight crumble as the stone that had been pushed in moved back into its original place. He then took the lead placing my hand on his shoulder. "Tell the others to do the same." He whispered so I passed the message onto Holly who passed it onto the person behind her and so on. Nate started walking along the passageways as if from memory taking a turn every now and again. I was glad that Isadora was staying silent. I could sense that she was awake but it was if she could sense that her safety depended on silence.

We eventually stopped and Nate kissed my hand before removing it from his shoulder. He then brushed his fingers along the wall as if looking for something. After about 30 seconds there was a faint click and then the low rumble of stone moving over stone as a doorway appeared causing all of us to squint at the sudden light. We cautiously stepped into the throne room which looked deserted besides the gleaming at the front of the room. We watched as the other sorcerers emerged from another doorway on the other side of the throne room but strangely

enough there was no sign of the King. I looked down at the floor and within the intricate mosaic pattern of the floor I could make out words. Oh shit the gateway to the demon realm is in the throne room, joy!!!

I heard a sharp intake of breath from above. "You're alive!!!" I saw a beautiful little girl about 8 years old looking down at Nate.

"Reli?" He asked cautiously.

"Natty it is you." She squealed with delight. "Wait there I'm coming down." Not even 30 seconds later she pushed through the crowds and leapt into his arms pressing her body tightly to his. If I wasn't so tense I would have thought how sweet it was.

"Why have you drawn on your face Natty?" She said tilting her head to the side before looking at me. "Oh she's pretty and look you match." She said with a squeal before reaching out towards me.

"This is Ari, my soul mate." He said. "And Ari this is my little sisterAurelial."

I smiled at the little girl. "Sorry I can't hold you cos of Izzy." I gestured towards the baby sleeping in front of me. She pouted before becoming excited.

"Ooh lemme see!!" She squealed again. So Nate walked closer to me so that she could see the sleeping baby. "Why'd you draw on her too. " She asked full of innocence. I was about to respond when a chilling voice permeated the air.

"Well, well, well. The prodigal son returns. And look he's brought his merry men." I moved my head frantically searching for the source of the voice but found nothing. " Are you really going to try and stop me son?" The way he spat the last words sent chills done my spines. "And look at this you have matching body art with your little girlfriend and oh how sweet a baby...you really shouldn't have come back Nathaniel. I could have ignored you but now I know what you are I'm going to have to kill you and your little family."

I watched as Aurelia gasped and cowered into Nate's side burying her head into his chest. She's too sweet and innocent to be caught up in all of this. I took

Aurelia from Nate projecting my thoughts so he could hear them loud and clear and then handed her over to Ryan who cradled her to his chest looking at me confused. I then kissed Izzy on the head before removing her from the baby carrier and handing her to Ingrid. "You make sure that you, Sam and Ryan get out with the kids. I don't care what you have to do you just have to get out and keep them safe. " I said to Ingrid pushing them towards the passageways because I knew that although the King could hear us I somehow knew he couldn't see us at this point of time.

Ingrid, Sam and Ryan disappeared through the gap where we had emerged minutes before with Izzy and Aurelia being held by the men. I closed the passageway behind them but not before using my magic to light the way for them. I then turned back to the room to see the king standing in the centre of the room with a visible barrier protecting him.

"Let's get this over with!!" I growled at him. He chuckled darkly coming under the light so that I could see his familiar figure that I had seen so many

times on the TV show. I felt Holly quiver beside me. No doubt she felt all of the evil emotions emanating from him. He looked just like Nate but older and uglier, like he would have been a handsome old man if it wasn't for the blackness of his soul which had somehow tainted him inside and out.

"Now, now. You children are soo impatient. Don't worry, you'll get want you want but first let's get the party started. He raised his hands and began murmuring under his breath. I watched as object from all around the room lifted off of the floor as if caught up in a whirlwind and flew towards the gathered sorcerers. Some hastily threw up shields so that the debris bounced off of them with a spark of light in different colours depending on the person. Huh...that's interesting. I was snapped out of my thoughts as a particularly large piece of furniture flew towards me. On instinct I raised both of my arms out in front of me with my palms facing outwards and slowly moved my arms outwards so that a huge wall of fire erupted in front of me and the wooden bench that had been hurtling towards me was incinerated on contact.

I then directed the fire at the sorcerer King and watched as his face became startled and his shield began to falter. "Noo!!" I watched as the King knelt down on the floor and placed his palms on the ground and began chanting. Oh no, this can't be good. I also saw that the top level was now lined with people with guns. They looked startled to see soo many sorcerers in one room and automatically chambered a bullet.

Damn TV people bringing guns here. I heard the gunshot before I saw what happened but next thing I knew the person next to me dropped to the floor. I looked down to see Nate clutching his leg. Okay not fatal but now I am pissed. I gave a great battle cry which startled the people around me and created a ball of flames in between my palms whilst all of the sorcerers bombarded the king with magical attacks that glowed brightly against his black shield, creepy that it was as dark and disturbing as him. I closed my eyes and focused on all of the people I could sense in the room and then I snapped my eyes open and blasted fire at all of those that I deemed a threat which meant the entire row of gun toting bastards. A

few of them had shields that flared into life but looked startled by their luck.

I then tore my face back to the kind when I saw the ground split and dark things emerging from the crap.

"You've got to stop him now!!!" A voice shrieked behind me. I whirled around to see Blake looking kind of sick but I knew what he meant.

"Come on." I left Nate where he was and pulled Holly on the other side of the room so she was stood next to one of the sorcerers and then I moved so that I was like the third point of our triangle. "What do we do?" I shouted at Blake as more darkness and creatures emerged from the growing pit and headed towards the exit,s killing some of the sorcerers on the way out who didn't have their shields up.

"You've got to concentrate on your powers and throw everything you've got. Tay think of the earth and closing up the ground, about fire burning the demons and water is washing them away. Holly I want you to close your eyes and do the same but imagine a whirlwind picking up the King I sucking him into the earth. I want you to imagine lighting hitting the crack

so that the edges are melted shut. Nate I want you to use you power and try and contain anything that emerges." He shouted over the roar of furious demons.

I could feel my brows furrowing in concentration as we did as Blake said. I heard a few gasps from around the room but I was concentrating too badly on what Blake's instructions.

"No..no...stop!!!" I heard the king shriek which caused my eyes to pop open to see his dark evil ass being dragged into the chasm. He was clawing desperately at the edges before I saw a shadow consume his body and he was dragged down. I immediately focused on closing the crack with my earth ability and I watched in wonder as lightning appeared out of nowhere and struck the remaining crack leaving a scorch mark but the hole sealed shut.

Everyone gave a cheer but it was abruptly stopped when a force erupted from the scorch mark and we were all blown off our feet. Those who were closer to the point of origin; Nate, Holly and I were thrown back with soo much force that we collided with the

hard stone walls, my body thumping into the wall and dropping to the floor where my head collided with the stone making me fall into the darkness.

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Chapter 23

Escape From Antoria part 23

Part 23 only short but this is my version of procrastination do this and then i wont have to read stuff for seminar tomorrow.Hope you enjoy!!

Chapter 22

Sam's POV

Nate and Ari were laid side by side on a huge bed with silk sheets. It's been over a week and neither had woken up since the huge event and none of us were sure what to do. Holly was fine surprisingly because Blake who I don't even remember being in the throne room stopped her from hitting the wall. We were just waiting for the other two.

Ingrid came into the room with Izzy coddled up in her arms and came to stand by me.

"Any change?" She asked. I looked over at the two motionless forms on the bed and shook my head.

"No." I said in monotone. I don't know how but in the short time that I've known them, both Nate and Ari have become family to me. Izzy stirred in Ingrid's arms and I couldn't help but smile and the beautiful child. I hope that Ingrid and I can have our own children now that the main threat is gone.

Izzy's head twisted and turned as if searching for something until it landed on the two frozen forms on the bed. She stretched her hands towards them. I felt more than saw the magic pouring from the strange child and watched in amazement as both Nate and Ari moved in perfect timing as the both rolled onto their sides so that they were facing each other and their hands searched for the other. When their palms came in contact with one another, I watched in amazement at the strange shield that pulsed from them. It was all off Ari's elements but as if they were being manipulated by some other force. The air

danced and pulsed and the smell of a freshly cut lawn filled my senses. The burning fires and cooling waters all mingled into one. To say it looked amazing would be an understatement.

Izzy still leaned towards them but neither Ingrid nor I wanted to move we just wanted to watch. Izzy gave out a frustrated cry and turned her eyes to Ingrid whose eyes widened before she took Izzy towards her parents. I watched in amazement as Izzy's body moved easily through the shield but as soon as Ingrid's hands came in contact with the rainbow of colours, she recoiled as if she'd been burnt dropping the baby through the barrier with a yelp.

Instead of the baby dropping straight down onto the silk sheets, I watched as she descended in slow motion before landing gently between the unconscious forms. I watched in awe as Izzy put her hand on Nate and Ari's joined hands and the shield change from a chaotic swirl of colours and elements to a smooth peaceful gold and contented smiles appeared on both Nate and Ari's faces. That kid has

some serious mojo if she can do all this and is only just a week old.

Slowly the glow of the barrier intensified before collapsing inwards bathing the three intermingled forms in a calming silver light. I watched as slowly Nate's eyes opened and he shot up on the bed. Ari however was a bit slower as she took the time to scoop the gurgling baby up off of the sheets and hug her close to her body. She finally looked up at us and smiled. "Hi Sam. Hey Ingrid. Did we do it?"

I was ecstatic that they were awake and speechless as well after what I had just seen so my reply was merely a nod. I listened as Ingrid cleared her throat next to me. Oh yeah. "Blake said to tell you that he'll meet you as soon as you wake up to discuss the action on what to do next because we have clean up duty to do and a new king and queen to crown." They merely nodded not really paying attention then turned to one another and smiled.

I turned and grasped Ingrid's hand before pulling her out of the door. I can see great things happening with

those two in charge and the idea of no longer having to hide was pure bliss.

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Chapter 24

Escape From Antoria part 24

Part 24

This is in Ari's POV again so enjoy !!

Chapter 23

I couldn't feel anything. I couldn't see anything. I couldn't hear anything. There was just nothing but darkness. I felt so...alone.

"Hello?!" I shouted into the darkness hoping, no praying that someone would hear me. But no reply came, I was completely alone. This continued for I don't know how long just endless blackness and my

endless cries for someone to just be there. But there never was, there was only blackness.

After a week in real time but more like a century in the desolate night, I called into the blackness as I wandered aimlessly.

"Hello?!" I shouted. "Is anybody there? Please be there." I felt tears coming to my eyes. My voice was hoarse from the non-stop shouting but I couldn't give up, I had to see Izzy and Nate and of course Holly. I hope they are OK, what if they got hurt? What about Nate he got shot. Oh no what if he's dead. As all these thoughts passed through my head I felt as if there was someone else in the darkness, I felt like I was no longer alone.

"HELLO?!" I shouted as loud as my scratchy throat would go and was weeping when I heard a familiar voice reply back through the blackness.

"ARI?" Nate's voice shouted back and I swear it sounded as if they were right next to me yet so very far away. I turned towards the sound of the voice and outstretched my hands and let tears of relief fall down my cheeks when my hand came in contact

with his and the darkness disappeared. Standing before me was the man I had endlessly been searching for in the darkness.

"Nate?" I whispered. What if this is a dream and I'm simply going mad and the minute I believe it I will be in darkness again. I didn't dare let my hand move from his in case the darkness returned and instead revelled in the warmth it brought me. It made me feel safe which I hadn't in such a long time; the nothingness of where I had been before was terrifying the idea of being alone and unable to sense anything, only able to hear my own voice.

"Yeah it me. God I was so worried. I thought I'd lost you. It was just dark. It thought ...i thought I'd never see you again." He rambled, his eyes slowly filling with tears. I smiled at his trying to reassure his but was hit with a terrible pain in my head at the same time as Nate collapsed to the floor clutching his leg where he'd been shot.

"Nate?" I cried desperately through the pain. Oh god it hurts so much. I could feel mine and Nate's magic swirling in torrents in the distance, in some place so

very close and yet so far but at this moment I just wanted the pain to stop. I watched in horror as Nate's face turned ashen and then he collapsed to the ground. I tried to reach out to him but my feet just wouldn't move, like I was paralysed by the pain in my head.

Suddenly I felt someone else's presence and the pain in my head slowly receded. The presence was also familiar. I looked at Jez who looked like he was in bliss as the colour began to return to his cheeks. The air now had a comforting and healing essence that made me want to simply laze in it all day.

"Mother, Father. Wake up." An angelic voice ordered but I couldn't see anyone else. I looked at Nate and he was just as confused. Mother and father...wait was that Izzy.

"Izzy?" I questioned.

"I said wake up." As the angelic voice ordered this I felt as though I had been jolted with a thousand volts and the next thing I knew I was lying down on something soft.

I opened my eyes and blinked a few times to adjust my blurred vision. In front of me lay two people who I had longed for in the almost eternal darkness. I scooped Izzy up into my arms and pulled her close to my body revelling in the feel of her in my arms. It was amazing, like nothing could bring me so much joy.

I snapped my head when I heard a shuffling and saw two people who made me instantly want to smile. "Hi Sam. Hey Ingrid. Did we do it?" I asked as the events came flooding back to me; the great chasm in the ground, the king being sucked into it, the lightning. Oh god Holly. I never felt so guilty in my life. I was so caught up in everything that I thought about Holly, my own flesh and blood as an afterthought.

I watched as Sam just nodded looking kind of dazed, I wonder what happen to him. Instead Ingrid cleared her throat and addressed us.

"Blake said to tell you that he'll meet you as soon as you wake up to discuss the action on what to do next because we have clean up duty to do and a new king and queen to crown." I was amazed that she could

say that sentence in one breath. New king and queen, wasn't Blake talking about that before. I nodded absently at her before turning to look at the man who found me in the darkness and smiled.

I barely noticed Sam and Ingrid leave the room I was just staring at the angel in front of me. I tentatively raised my hand and brushed it against Nate's cheeks; he in response closed his eyes and leant into my palm, sighing in contentment. Without a second thought I leant forward and brushed my lips against his being careful not to squash the baby between us. I was amazed as once again the elements swirled around us, the flames licking ever inch of my body. I gasped and looked down at Izzy only to see a gurgling baby playing with the flames dancing off my skin unharmed. I smiled and looked up at Nate who pulled me to him once more and our lips joined together in a passionate kiss. It showed me everything he felt for me and more and I could feel myself glowing from the raw emotion it contain, I even felt the markings on my face tingle so in response I did the same. I've never been good with

all the emotional stuff but I just hope from this kiss he gets it.

I pulled apart from Nate gasping for breath before snuggling into his arms, I never wanted this moment to end but of course it had to and sooner rather than later because our little family moment was broken by a knock at the door.

"Blake has returned and has requested you presence in the dining room." A young servant girl said before disappearing back out the door. I wonder what he wants now?

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Chapter 25

escape From Antoria part 25

Part 25 enjoy !! not the best chapterr I've written but oh well

Chapter 24

I got up off of the bed and approached the wardrobe looking for replacement clothes. What? I was still in the King Arthur chic and there's no way I am going anywhere like this. Jeez, I'm unconscious for a week and they don't even bother to change my clothes or wash the dirt off? Lazy gits!!! I stopped when I noticed a door just to my left.

I opened the door next to the wardrobe and was in awe of the palatial bathroom in front of me, just one

word, incredible. I didn't time to explore because of the meeting with Blake so I handed Izzy to Nate and then I headed back in the bathroom to wash away the reminders of battle.

I scrubbed away all of the dirt and when I re-entered the bedroom in a nothing but a warm black towel; I saw Nate laid on the bed his hair wet and now dressed in a black shirt and some matching black trousers cuddling Izzy to his chest and cooing at her with such adoration in his eyes. I always knew he would be a good father but seeing that look in his eyes was enough to confirm it. I just stood there and watched them for a few minutes more before I spoke.

"Did you pick me out any clothes?" I asked. I watched as his head snapped up and he smiled.

"No, but Holly came by with a bag. She said it had your clothes in it." He said with a smile before nodding his head towards a bag in the corner. Ooh I'd recognise that bag anywhere, it was my black shoulder bag with Mickey Mouse on the side, sad I know but the bag was just ...cute.

I scuttled hastily over to the bag and ripped open the top revealing the Holy Grail. Well not literally but my God ...a bra and of course matching French knickers. It's weird you never realise how much you appreciate something until it's gone and boy did I miss these, not that going commando isn't fun but I like to feel ...secure...yeah that's the word I'd use. I dropped the towel and got changed into them before searching through the bag for the rest of the outfit. There were a few pairs of skinnies and a couple of T-shirts so it was a matter of deciding what to wear and there at the bottom of the bag was heaven...my converse. I'm not emo or whatever but you have got to love skinnies and converse they are a god send.

I pulled out a pair of Black Skinny jeans and a white shirt with a belt, thought I'd go casual smart today so to finish off I pulled my bright pink converse from the bag. What? It's the only pair they brought and these happen to be my favourites. I turned towards Nate still in only my underwear and saw his eyes widen at me. Jeez he's my husband I thought he'd get over it by now.

"What on Antoria are you wearing?" He said in a high pitched voice. I bit my lip to stop me from chuckling.

"What you don't like?" I said mocking him. "And these are obviously not an invention of Antoria. They are from my home world, earth." I watched as he absently nodded his head still staring. Feeling self conscious under his watchful eye I dumped the clothes on the bed but kept the shirt in my hand. I slipped it on and then looked down. My god I look like a slut you can see my bra through this. Ah who cares you only live once. I left the belt undone whilst I went back into the bag and pulled out socks. Best put them on now cos sometimes putting socks on after the Skinny jeans can be a bitch and the socks were not just any sock s but my knee high stripy socks. They are awesome, can't get better than florescent pink and black stripes.

I pulled on the socks but then turned around to grab my jeans and saw Nate looking at me in amusement.

"What are those?" He said. "And how did you get such bright colours?"

"Umm dunno, I bought them...didn't make them." I replied grabbing the skinny jeans and pulling them on, next the converse. When I was all dressed, I did up the belt and sighed in contentment; now this was comfort. "Are you ready for the meeting then?" I asked as I sat down on the bed next to Nate and kissed Izzy on the forehead before giving his a peck on the lips moving his wet locks out of the way.

"As ready as I'll ever be. So is this what your people dress like where you're from." He asked as he moved towards the edge of the bed.

"umm some people. Like here people of different classes and lands wear different clothes so do the people where I'm from though most of the teens will be wearing these amazing shoes." I said lifting up the converse, sighing as I looked them over. They are heaven. I thought about the different fashions like emo, Goth, skater, slut *Cough* and anything else I could think of and watched as Nate's eyebrows rose into his hairline.

"Oh." Nate said finally meeting my eyes. "You really are from another world aren't you?"

I nodded.

"I should like to see it someday." He said wistfully. Don't get any ideas buddy, you're stuck with me. I'm not letting him anywhere near the skanks from earth; they'll be all over him trying to dry hump his leg.

"Maybe you will." I said with a smile before grabbing his arm and dragging him out of the door. I got to the end of a long hallway and looked around. Ok which way? "Umm maybe you should lead the way." I said turning to Nate who had a huge smirk on his face. Idiot.

"Just follow me Ari; I'll give you a tour or maybe a map later." He chuckled before dragging me down one of the many hallways. I tried to keep track of the many twists and turns he took but after the fifth turning I just gave up. I couldn't help but notice that the castle didn't seem as dark and ominous as it had been last night; it was somehow lighter, kinder.

We eventually arrived at a set of large oak doors that looked big enough for a giant to walk through them.

Nate let go of my hand and waved it in the air and automatically the doors opened. Nate looked back at me with a smile but faltered when he saw the nervous expression on my face.

"Ari don't worry. I'm sure everything will be fine." He said before tangling his hand with mine once more and tugging me into what can only be described and an overly large dining room. Seriously, who needs a table to seat 50 people? No one that's who.

Together Nate and I walked into the huge dining room and as I surveyed the grandeur of the room I couldn't help but be awed. The walls were lined with wood; probably oak to match the great big doors I just walked through. The gleam to the wood suggested it had recently been polished and the lingering smell of lemons suggested this room had recently been scrubbed clean. My line of sight followed along the great table in the centre of the room following the golden table cloth running down the centre before focusing on a huge silken emblem of a coat of arms hanging behind the head of the table.

Out of the corner of my eye I noticed Nate staring at me so I snapped my head towards him. "Is that your coat of arms?" I asked nodding my head towards the silk sheet.

"No, it's ours or did you forget that you are now married to me. Well according to the God's...in the eyes of the people not so much but don't worry that will all be sorted out soon enough." He said smiling at me. I just nodded; I know I'm meant to be with Nate but seriously Queen, and what about my parents? I can't leave them and what about Holly? I have to go back. I shook my head. Luckily by the look on Nate's face he hadn't heard those thoughts.

I finally took notice of the people sitting at the end of the table. Aurelia, Holly, Blake, Sam, Ingrid and bunch of other people I've never seen before but look a whole lot like Nate sat at the table. They weren't talking instead they were just sitting there waiting. I sighed before turning to Nate and pecking him on the lips. Something makes me think I'm not going to like this. I took the Izzy into my arms and walked towards the group.

Nate rushed in front of me and pulled out the chair for me next to Holly and he took the one the other side of me. There was an underlying tension in the room but I ignored it and addressed Blake.

"Okay so what's going on?" I said raising a brow at him and the 'don't mess with me' face. He nodded and looked around at all those at the table before settling his eyes back on me.

"The portal was opened. I know it wasn't for long but ...things.." I watched as he shuddered. "...escaped. They can't remain loose for long. They've already caused enough damage. We need to trap them until we find a way to put them back where they came from. That's simple enough to do with the help of all of the sorcerers. Next is the matter of you my Queen and your sister. I understand you are conflicted as to what you should do. There is something you should know. Your bloodline is originally from Antoria, you true family name is La Chantrell. Nate, I am sure you have heard of them." I turned to look at Nate who was staring at me, his mouth gaping, great he's doing

the fish impression. As I thought this his mouth abruptly shut, guess he was 'listening' again.

"Now you and Holly will both need to return to your world because there is a missing person report out on you. The cover story will be the TV show, the battle which will be aired in two days but we will leave for Earth tomorrow morning." He said in a calm voice. Nate however was panicking.

"What? No, she's my wife, the queen, she can't leave." He said getting up from the table.

"Calm down Nathaniel...you'll be coming too. We need to move the entire family to this realm so I'll need all the help I can get. The distant family members aren't needed just our queen's parents and grandparents and of course her big brother." He said but I was reeling. Big brother? What big brother, I never had one so how can I get something I never had. "Ari I know you didn't know about Maddox but that's for your parents to explain." With that he ended the discussion and moved onto other matters such as the coronation.

"Ari, Nate, the coronation will be held in a week. I've got Marcos De Beauvoir doing the preparations. I know this is a bit...conceited but I think you will have to renew your vows for the public image. You know how they love a royal wedding." As he said this, Blake rolled his eyes but I could understand how it would be important for the public perspective of royalty and after a crappy king and the demonic presences in the kingdom the town needs to see proof that they are not alone. Whoa that was way too deep for me.

"OK kids, get some food and rest. We'll meet at 6 am and I'll bring you some clothes Nate, because there is no way you can go like that. Sam, follow me to the drawing room after you've eaten, I need to go over what needs to be done while we're gone to round up the rest of the demons; should be simple enough as long as no one is alone. Right that's all I have to say you're dismissed." Ok now I really want to hit him. Sometimes Blake can be the guy to make your knees like jelly yet at other times he is a complete and utter idiot, come on we are not children yet he insists on talking to us like we are; Jackass.

None of us moved from our chairs except Blake who picked up a bag from beside his chair and swiftly left the room. I watched my sister eye him up as he left the room, this is not good.

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Chapter 26

Escape From Antoria part 26

Chapter 25

Seriously not good; she's fifteen and he's 20, i think? No she can't like him...though he would be her type. When we were back home, he dressed kind of emo and so does she. It would be an emo love story if it wasn't for the fact that neither of them are emo they just like the clothes. Got to say I'm glad she didn't take a liking to Slut chic; if she did let's just say I'd never let her leave the house.

My attention was brought back to the people at the table when I noticed someone waving their hand in

my face. Oops. "Hellllllooooooooooooo, anyone in there?" Holly asked.

"Wha-... Oh yeah sorry I was just thinking. So how have you been? You weren't hurt were you?" I asked quickly.

"I'm fine Ari, Actually Blake saved me from getting hurt." She sighed. My god she sighed...this is so wrong. I'm glad I didn't fall in love with him or do anything or this might have been awkward.

"So who are all these people?" I asked looking at the teens gathered around the table. There were 3 girls and 4 boys, none of whom I recognised but I got the feeling they were Nate's relatives because they all looked similar to him in one way or another.

"Oh yeah they are Nate's brothers and sisters." She said. "That's Maya." She said pointing to the girl who was obviously the oldest of the siblings. She looked about 22; I wonder why she isn't married because she's definitely not ugly. With her long golden blonde locks and beautiful green eyes she looked like a goddess. "Next to her you have Raven and Hayley. They're the same age but by different mums, it seems

daddy dearest was having a little too much fun." I elbowed her. "Why did you do that?" She asked glaring at me.

"Because it's rude, like it or not that man was their father." I said. "Even if he was the super villain." I added as an afterthought. "Anyways carry on. " She started to talk but was interrupted by Nate.

"I think it's time that I introduced you to my family." Nate whispered in my ear before turning to his siblings.

"Hey guys, I know you've probably but I'd like to introduce you to Ari, my soul mate and wife." He said wrapping an arm around my shoulders. "And this is my daughter, Izzy." He looked at the baby asleep in my arms with adoring eyes and I couldn't help but smile and lean into his embrace. All I needed was my parents and this scene would be picture perfect because right here in this room I had everything I ever needed. Oh jeez I sound so cheesy, next I'll be reading Mills and Boon ...save me now !!!!

I looked up at Nate's siblings and my in laws. "So what are your names? I recognise you, Aeron right?"

I said pointing to the oldest boy. He looked like he was about a year younger than Nate and I and was incredibly handsome. Not as handsome as the angel beside me but still, he gives Nate a run for his money.

"Yeah, I'm Aeron." He said looking at me. "Nate you're a lucky man, but did you have to mark your territory?" He raised an eyebrow. God how does he do that? I can sort of do it but it just looks like there is something wrong with me.

I turned to Nate and began to trace his mark whilst he did mine. "We didn't do them ourselves they were a gift from Rosmardin, our goddess. And no it isn't a cult; she's the goddess from the old religion in Antoria." I kept my gaze locked on Nate's marking that were now glowing a bright red and gave out a awed sigh. I love it when my touch can do that. I turned back to Nate family whilst Nate still traced my face in a trance and talked.

"So Aeron, which one is Dior cos I know one of you is Dior, I remember him being mentioned on TV." I said looking at the other boys next to Aeron. The boy of

about 14 shakily raised his hand and looked shyly up to me.

"I'm Dior." He said in a quiet voice barely making eye contact with me. Aww so sweet he's all shy.

I smiled at him trying to look as friendly and welcoming as I could. "Nice to meet you Dior, I'm Arianna but you can call me Ari, is that OK?" I said tilting my head to the side as I watched him relax a bit. He nodded and gave me a small smile.

"Ok so who's next?" I asked. A boy of about 16 raised his hand. He looked a spitting image of Nate except that his eyes were emerald green instead of chocolate brown. "And what's your name?" I gave his a smile.

"Theo. Short for Theodore but I prefer Theo." He said in a deep gravelly voice that didn't match his angelic features. I nodded.

"And last but not least." I said looking at the youngest of all the boys he looked about 6 and was the most adorable little boy I've ever seen.

"This is Sammy" Nate said from beside me. He was only 2 when I left, I can't believe how much he's grown." He said not taking his eyes off the little boy who was gazing around the table curiously. Aww so sweet can I keep him. Nate suddenly started chuckling and I couldn't help but smack my head. I don't think I'll ever get used to his mind reading. His brothers and sisters were just looking at his as if he's crazy.

"What are you laughing at?" Dior said again doing the eyebrow thing.

"Oh nothing, it's just Ari wants to keep Sammy, she thinks he adorable." He said before chuckling again. I hit him in the arm. "What it won't matter you'll see him everyday anyways once we get back from earth."

"What is this Earth anyways? I've heard of it in the history books but it hasn't been mentioned for over 500 years." Maya asked looking at us curiously.

"It's where I'm from, it's very different to this world. There's cars and TV's and radios not that what I just said makes any sense to you. Maybe we should ask Blake if they can all come we're only going back to

get my parents and so called brother and I can get the rest of my converse collection." I finished my sentence with a dreamy sigh.

"Converse?" Dior was the one to pipe in. Oh my god I forgot they don't know what they are. I handed Nate Izzy who was still asleep thankfully and pushed my chair back so that I could lift my foot in the air.

"These, my friends, are the most amazing shoes in existence, otherwise known as converse. I have them in all different colours and designs. They do them for both guys and girls. Hmm, I'm maybe I'll get you all a pair. Ooh I wonder if they do mini converse for Izzy." I squealed a bit at the end acting like a little girl and had to refrain myself from clapping my hands and jumping up and down. What? Converses are awesome and just about the only shoes I take an interest in.

"OK then, looks like we've got another crazy sister." Aeron said with a smirk. "Actually two if you count Holly."

"Umm I'm not crazy." Holly said from beside me. She was in her normal clothes skinny jeans and she had a

black zipped hoodie with a red tank top underneath. I see she's already back on the liquid eyeliner. It's like her addiction. "You're the crazy one who didn't know what converse were."

"At least I'm not the grim reaper; you look like some gothic being." Aeron retorted and I just cringing.

Damn, better cover my ears. I watched as Nate tried to cover his ears with his one free hand as I placed both of my hands over my ears.

"I am not a Goth!!!!" She shrieked; the sound piercing through my covered ears. "For your information the look is emo."

I almost laughed at Aeron's face but my ears were still ringing. Damn it, it's always the same. Never call her Goth.

"Whatever you say sis." He smirked. Oh god he's just making it worse she might actually hurt him with the new powers she has.

"Umm Aeron please don't annoy her, she has control over the weather and if you don't want to be struck by lightning then I suggest you back off." I said trying

to talk him down. Oh God, I just thought of something. These kids, well some of them, don't have any parents, so who is going to look after them because I can see them being a handful.

"Umm Ari the person looking after them would be us. Well except Hayley and the older kids but they all live in the castle." Nate said calmly beside me.

"What about Sammy's mum?"I asked.

Nate looked down at the table sombrely. "She died." I took Nate's hand in mine and rubbed the back until he decided to look at me.

"I'm sorry." I said as I leant over and gave him a tender kiss on the lips automatically feeling the flames across my skin. Is it really going to do this every time we kiss? Not that I don't mind it feels great but it probably looks weird to everyone else.

"Whoa that is soo cool." The three older boys said together making Nate and I pull away from each other. When we looked over at them they all had wide eyes.

"Does that happen every time?" Maya asked tilting her head to the side as she watched us.

Nate and I looked at each other. "Yes" We answered together and then burst out laughing.

"Want to see some little magic tricks?" I asked. They all nodded so I brought my hand in front of me and suddenly a dragon made out of fire was swirling in the air. I then thought of water and watched as the fire engine red that had glowed in air turned into a clear water that moved seamlessly weaving in and out of my new sibling who watched in awe especially Sammy who had a huge grin on his face.

All of a sudden the door was opened and about 10 servants came in with trays which they placed in front of each of us. "Dinner is served." I thought about fire and the water I had been controlling hissed in the air in a puff of steam so that it disappeared from sight.

I then looked at the dish in front of me and couldn't help but drool at the mouth watering sigh in front of me. A roast dinner. Mmmm now this is heaven.

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Chapter 27

Escape From Antoria part 27

Part 27

Chapter 26

The next morning Nate and I were awaiting the arrival of Blake as we stood in another overly large room. Izzy was cradled to my chest asleep as per usual because it just didn't feel right to let her out of my sight and all of Nate's siblings as well as Holly were gathered in the room, only Aurelia and Blake were missing but Aurelia was sleeping at her friends mansion. Not that it should surprise be when Nate said mansion, cos this place was just ridiculous. Blake had brought by clothes for everyone because

he'd 'seen' that they would all come along. I sighed as I once again paced the 'drawing room', when it clearly it wasn't as it was the size of a basketball court, before huffing and falling back into a seat. Where the heck is he?

"Speak of the devil and he shall come." Nate chuckled as the door to the room was thrown open. Blake was in his normal emo attire which even I can admit he look damn hot in, and couldn't help but notice the sharp intake of breath from the 4 other girls in the room. I just rolled my eyes before I caught the lustful look on Holly's face. Oh eww. This is soo gonna give me the creeps.

"Ok are you guys ready, we have a portal to catch." With that Blake walked into the centre of the room and pulled out bright blue chalk. He traced a circle on the floor with a border that held a variety of symbols in it. As he completed the last of the symbols they started to glow and a glowing archway formed in front of us. "Ari you'll walk through last, Holly you come through with me. You all go through in threes. Sammy can come with me. Aeron go with the Hayley

and Raven, Maya you're with Theo and Dior. Just to warn all of the Antorians, this world is different to anything you have ever seen. The portal should open up in a park but once we leave the park you all stick together, no wandering off on your own. Got it? good." With that he took Sammy and Holly's hands and walked through the shimmering portal.

Theo, Maya and Dior tentatively approached the portal and gulped. "It's OK." I assured them. The three gave me shaky smiles before walking through. The twins and Aeron ran through the portal so last but not least was Nate, Izzy and I. "Come on it's time to show you my home." Together we stepped into the portal and were overcome with millions of sensations.

I felt like I was being pushed and pulled in a million directions as well as hearing a million different sounds that combined together in a soft hum that clouded over your senses removing any fear and making you feel at peace even with the tugging of an unknown force. I only realised I was back in my world when the hum suddenly vanished and the

tugging halted. I looked around and smiled at the fond memories.

"I can't believe out of all the places you bring me to Devil's drop. Couldn't you find a better landing site than Stanley Park?" I said to Blake as I surveyed the steep hill in front of me and the huge tree with rope attached to in. "Why are we in Gosport anyways, I thought my parents were still at London because of Holly?"

"No they're back in town because I called them to tell them to come back here. I didn't really want to open up a portal in London, more likely someone would stumble upon it even at this hour in the morning but around here the kids won't start coming to school for another hour or so." He said looking around. "So this is the infamous Devil's drop you told me about?" He asked as he looked up at the steep climb ahead.

"Yup. Wish I still had my suspension bike so I could ride down it." I sighed wistfully.

"Bike?" All the Antorians chimed in together and I sighed again.

"I'll show you later. Come on." And with that I walked along the bottom of the hill until I came to make shift stairs in the muddy banks. I slowly ascended the stairs before following the familiar path through the woods. I could probably walk through here blindfolded not that I'd want to, probably fall and break something. I did fall a few times when school made me do bloody cross country through Stanley but it was a great place to skip lessons with the many places to hide.

After about 20 minutes of walking we came out at the car park which overlooked the beach front. I took in a deep breath revelling in the familiar salty air as the wind whipped my hair around my face. Up ahead I saw 3 cars with 2 familiar people standing alongside them and one complete stranger. "Here can you take Izzy a second?" I said to Nate. He nodded already knowing what I wanted. I grabbed Holly's hand and we ran the length of the car park into our parents waiting arms.

"I missed you soo much." My mum wailed as she squeezed me really tight. "Where the hell have you

been couldn't you have left me a note? And you Holly don't ever do that again, I thought you'd been kidnapped for Christ's sake." I watched as tears began to form in her eyes.

"Mum we're fine. And look Holly is all better isn't that what counts." I said before catching the eye of mysterious stranger at car number three. "Who's he?"

My mum turned to him and gave him a small smile. "He's your brother." Oh so this is the guy Nate was talking about. "I'll explain later love." She said with a warm smile easing any fears I had.

"Oh OK. Any news on Riley?" I asked. (Riley is mentioned in passing in chapter 13 but no name is mentioned.)I haven't thought about him much since he went away to war but he was my best friend and just because Riley's not my real brother didn't mean I didn't love him any less. He was my best friend when

I was younger and was adopted by my parents when his own parents died a few years back. Stupid idiot though only had to go and sign up for the army.

"He's being honourably discharged. A..a bullet went through his shoulder and tore through nerves causing irreparable damage by modern medicine. He doesn't want to stay on at a desk job and they won't allow him to continue with active duty so he's at hoe waiting for you. Blake said that there was too many of you for him to come meet you as well though." She finished by taking a deep breath. Then she suddenly took a good look at my face and gasped. "Arianna, what the hell have you don't to your face. Have you been playing with permanent markers again?"

I sighed. "No mum. I didn't do these and I've got them all over my body. Holly has markings too and so

does Nate." I said gesturing to my gorgeous angel stood next to me with Izzy in his arms.

She gasped as she took him in. "My god you match!!" She squealed, in horror or delight, with her I'll never know. I just nodded and took Izzy back off of Nate and gently rocked her in my arms to stop the cries that had escaped her little body.

"Do I want to know?" She asked as she peered curiously at the bundle in my arms.

"Maybe when we get home." I turned to all of the Antorians who had been eyeing the cars curiously.

"Right kiddies, time to get in the cars. Let's see Holly you got with Mum take Theo, Maya, and Aeron with you." Holly nodded and grabbed Maya and Theo's hands pulling them towards my mum's little Renault Clio. I laughed as Theo eyed it fearfully before following Holly and Maya into the back. Aeron just slammed the back door closed and chuckled as Maya and Theo jumped and then climbed into the front.

"Blake, you go with my dad and take the twins and Sammy with you." Blake nodded and pulled the twins over to my dad's pride and joy, his BMW. Sammy was gazing at the car with awe as he got closer to it. I watched as he carefully placed his hands on it. Typical boy, he's already in love with the car.

"Dior you're with us and my long lost brother. Come on." I pulled them over to my brother who was driving a rather beat up fiat punto . How I know the names of some of these cars I don't know. I shyly walked up to the guy who, now I looked at him, I saw

that he looked like a younger version of my dad. "Hi" I said shyly.

He raised his eyes and gave me a wary smile. "You're Arianna right?" I nodded as I climbed in the back seat to see a car seat in place. I looked questioningly at him because it looked brand new. "That Blake dude said to put it in the car." I nodded and gently placed Izzy in the seat and strapped her in.

"So you're Maddox right?" I asked as I leant forward and pulled the seat belt forward for Nate and showed him how to plug it in. Maddox raised his eyebrow at this whilst nodding at me. "Well its nice to meet you Maddox. This is Nate, my husband for all intents and purposes, that is his little brother Dior and this little angel is Izzy my daughter. Don't say anything to mum I haven't told her yet." I said as I turned to Dior and fiddled with the seat belt before plugging it in and doing my own. "Okay all set, let's go." He nodded and turned the ignition on the car causing the engine to roar to life and the whole car to shudder with the vibrations.

"Do you want me to put some music on?" Maddox asked as he manoeuvred out of the parking space and followed the two cars out of the car park.

"Yeah go on then." I said. I watched as he pressed the button for the CD player but it said no disc.

"Sorry, radio it is." With that he pushed a button and the familiar ramblings of Chris Moyles of Radio one reached my ears. Now I've missed this. I almost laughed out loud to the startled expressions of Dior and Nate, they were frantically looking around for the source of the voice.

"It's the radio, the voice is coming from the speakers. I pointed to the speakers embedded in various parts of the car frame and this we're in right now is a car, it's our version of a horse and carriage." Maddox looked at me strangely in the mirror but upon seeing the contemplative expressions of the boy s faces said

"Are they Amish people that have just escaped the colony or something?"

"Or something." I replied with a chuckle as the opening notes to Florence and the Machine came on and I absently began to sing along to it.

There's a drumming noise inside my head

That starts when you're around

I swear that you could hear it

It makes such an all mighty sound

There's a drumming noise inside my head

That throws me to the ground

I swear that you should hear it

It makes such an all mighty sound

Louder than sirens

Louder than bells

Sweeter than heaven

And hotter than hell

I ran to a tower where the church bells chime

I hoped that they would clear my mind

They left a ringing in my ear

But that drum's still beating loud and clear

Louder than sirens

Louder than bells

Sweeter than heaven

And hotter than hell

Louder than sirens

Louder than bells

Sweeter than heaven

And hotter than hell

Louder than sirens

Louder than bells

Sweeter than heaven

And hotter than hell

As I move my feet towards your body

I can hear this beat it fills my head up

And gets louder and louder

It fills my head up and gets louder and louder

I run to the river and dive straight in

I pray that the water will drown out the din

But as the water fills my mouth

It couldn't wash the echoes out

But as the water fills my mouth

It couldn't wash the echoes out

I swallow the sound and it swallows me whole

Till there's nothing left inside my soul

As empty as that beating drum

But the sound has just begun

As I move my feet towards your body

I can hear this beat it fills my head up

And gets louder and louder

It fills my head up and gets louder and louder

There's a drumming noise inside my head

That starts when you're around

I swear that you could hear it

It makes such an all mighty sound

There's a drumming noise inside my head

That starts when you're around

I swear that you could hear it

It makes such an all mighty sound

Louder than sirens

Louder than bells

Sweeter than heaven

And hotter than hell

Louder than sirens

Louder than bells

Sweeter than heaven

And hotter than hell

As I move my feet towards your body

I can hear this beat it fills my head up

And gets louder and louder

It fills my head up and gets louder and louder

When the song finished I leant back in the seat with a smile to find that all of the boys were looking at me. Okay I admit as the song had gone on I had got more and more into the song and had as a result sung louder and louder. I smiled sheepishly and looked at the sleeping baby next to me. See my singing isn't that bad if I didn't wake Izzy up. I looked out of the window and saw that we were nearing the where my parents live but we still had another 10 minutes or so. The roads were relatively quiet with the odd car passing us on the road but that's about it.

I kept quiet for a few minutes until Paramore came on and I couldn't help but sing along to the lyrics but was a bit pissed when Maddox turned off the engine halfway through the song. I hummed the tune as I unbuckled the rest of the passengers and leant across to open the door for Dior before unbuckling Izzy and pulling her into my arms and getting out of the car so that I was standing in on the street of the all too familiar house. Think what you want but although we lived in the worst council estate in Gosport, it

wasn't that bad of a place to live, the road looked a little bit shabby but my parent's house was really nice on the inside.

Nate and Dior looked around dubiously at the road before following me up the short garden path and into the house. It all looked the same but the strange thing was, I no longer felt like I belonged there. I went into the room that was directly onto my right into the seriously crowded living room. Everyone was sat down either on a couch or on the soft cream carpets. I sat on the arm of the chair and Dior and Nate stood awkwardly in the doorway whilst Maddox sat of the floor at my feet.

"I guess we've got some explaining to do." I said looking into the expectant eyes of my parents just as I heard footfalls on the stairs and my one of my favorite people came into the room. "Riley!!!"

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[OK fact for you all Stanley Park and Devil's Drop are real places and yes I did ride down the ridiculously steep hill on my bike but I have to say it is really fun tho don't do it unless you are reckless as you can get

really hurt. I tried to describe it as best I could but it's been oveer 4 years since I've been there soo yeah...anywho hope you liked this chapter]

Chapter 28

Escape From Antoria part 28

Part 28

Chapter 27

I jumped up from my seat to hug him but Izzy immediately began to cry so I smiled apologetically as I swayed her from side to side and my little pinkie in her mouth which seemed to pacify her. I then slowly walked over to him and kissed him on the cheek. "How have you been Riles?"

"You know same old" He raised his arm to hug me but winced. Izzy must have extra sense or something because she held out her hand to Riley. I looked at Nate who was smiling. I wonder if he can read

anyone else's mind apart from mine cos I hate being the only radio station he can get.

"Not really same old, I heard you got injured and I think she wants you to hold her." I said looking down at Izzy who was getting frustrated that she couldn't get closer to Riley.

"Umm OK. But don't go far I don't know how long I'll be able to hold her." I gently placed her in his arms and Izzy being the little miracle baby that she is placed her marked palm on his cheek. I felt the tingle of magic in the air around me and smiled.

"How's your arm feeling Riles?" I asked with a knowing smile. He looked up at me his brows furrowed.

"It feels...that's weird it feels perfectly fine." He said cautiously rolling his shoulder.

"Good girl Izzy." I said with a smile and everyone but Blake, Holly and Nate looked at me like I was insane.

"Hmm I guess I better get on to the explaining." I gestured for Riley to sit and I went into the centre of the room. "You know that TV program Escape From

Antoria?" I waited for them to all nod. "Well it's real, all of it, the magic, the place even the King was real. There's a new king now, well there will be in a few days when Nate is crowned." I said looking at Nate with adoring eyes.

"Sweetie I think we need to get you checked out by a doctor." My mum said as she raised her arms in an attempt to keep me calm.

"Mum I'm not lying."I closed my eyes and placed my palms together. I then thought of fire and immediately felt the heat that although hot didn't harm my skin. I opened my palm at the same time I opened my eyes to show everyone in the room the fire I held within. "Nate your turn." I said and I watched as he used his hand and contorted the fire pulling it away from my palms so that it contorted into different shapes in the air. I then thought of water to cool the flames and the fire hissed before the flames disappeared. I'll never get used to that but it was a pretty awesome party trick.

I looked back at my family who were looking at me wide eyed, even Maddox. Way to introduce myself.

"Nate, Holly, Izzy, Blake and I are all part of an ancient magical line of mystics. We all have different abilities like our Holly here can control the weather." I looked at my parents to check that they were following my words. They nodded looking a bit dazed. "We were all marked with in some way to signify our gift so to speak. For each of us it's different except Nate and Holly who have the same as me, well only the originals are the same." I walked over to Nate. "Nate and I have different markings because we're soul mates so to speak and the markings are the physical sign of that." I reached up and traced his face and watched as it glowed the brilliant red and he simultaneously traced the pattern on my skin so that my face glowed. As soon as he dropped his hand I felt the tingles slowly recede as I faced my parents once more. They were both wide eyed.

"Ok so whose baby is that?" My dad asked looking at Izzy curiously. "You haven't been gone long enough to have a baby."

"I don't know how to explain it but I can tell you I gave birth to her and it hurt like hell." I cringed just thinking about the pain. "Seriously they should warn you about that in a manual or something. Blake you know about all this stuff better you're like the prophet or whatever so you know."

Blake smiled. "I am the reincarnation of the ancient oracle. And to begin the pregnancy took about 3-4 days through Immaculate Conception, think Virgin Mary. Izzy was a gift from our deity Rosmardin who knew that Izzy would be essential in the battle and the future of the kingdom and Rosmardin was right. Izzy is the one that cured Holly and she was the one that brought back Nate and Ari from the eternal darkness that had they stayed there for a few hours longer would have been trapped there forever, well maybe not forever but until their bodies died." I gulped that was a piece of information I wish he hadn't shared.

"Now more closely to home. You your daughters and Maddox are part of an ancient Antorian bloodline that disappeared about 500 years ago. This was

because the oracle warned them that their bloodline would be threatened by a great evil. Which if they had remained in Antoria Ari would no longer exist as she would have been killed in the purge by my Nate's deceased father. You are the La Chantrell's and are a noble family. Your family estates are still in working order. Ari of course along with Izzy will be living in the palace with Nate when we return as she'll be Queen. Hmm don't think there's anything else apart from the fact that we would like you all to come to Antoria with us, where you belong. The invitation is also extended to you Riley because I suspect..." Blake got up off of the floor and pulled down the collar of his shirt to reveal a marking on his chest. "...you are one of the ancients." Ok. Too many people, too much magic!

"Whoa. He's one of us. This is just insane. " I said as I looked closely at his mark. "Nate pass me the bag."

Nate chucked the bag at his feet at me and I caught it and began rummaging. I found the little book at the bottom of the bag. "The old man, still can't remember his name but he gave me the book on the ancients.

Let me see your mark again." Blake pulled down Riley's collar.

I flicked through the book at speed until the correct page. I looked at it then frowned. "Maya? Have you by chance got a mark?" I said as I scanned the page. I wasn't definite but I just sensed that the page was talking about her.

"Umm do you mean this?" She swept her hair up and there emblazoned on her neck was the symbol that matched the book. Interesting. I nodded.

"Congratulations you two, think of your selves as Ying and Yang, you are opposites but how do I put this Riles, she completes you!" I said with a smirk. "I showed them both the page that had the symbol on the page. They started off separate but became joined at the end fitting together perfectly. "You both will have some kind of ability but the true extent of it will only come to pass if you two become joined as soul mates like Nate and I did."

"Right now that's out of the way and everything has been explained I'm gonna go pack because we've got a coronation to get to and we have to have a public

wedding even though technically Nate and I are married." I rolled my eyes as I took Izzy from Nate's arms and pushed past the stunned people in the room and up the stairs to my room. Something makes me think this is going to be a long day.

I spent about half an hour packing before Riley came up and joined me. "Hey Ari."

I spun round and gave him a huge smile. "Hey Riles." I gave him a huge hug. "Sorry if we overwhelmed you with information but we're in a bit of a rush, a lot has happened in the last few weeks. I mean I look like someone has been doodling on me."I chuckled as I finished the sentence.

"So how far do the doodles go? It's just on your face and hands right?" He asked. I smiled and shook my head.

"Umm no they're every where. Nate and I kind of match, it started off with just one on the shoulder remember I told you that I woke up after 18th with a tattoo well that was my mark and then when Nate and I kissed, well this really strange thing happened and then when we broke apart we had stuff on our

faces. Then we got injured and some weird stuff happened and now we are married in the eyes of Rosmardin but we have to have a big flashy ceremony for the people of Antoria which will make mum happy as I'll have to wear a dress." I grimaced at the thought. "The only that sucks is there isn't any TV in Antoria or electricity. It's run on magic not that the people notice. SO are you gonna come to Antoria? You just see what it's like and if you hate it I'm sure Blake will give you a way back."

"I'll come. Just so I can see you in a dress. I can't believe I got away for a few months and you go all mushy with the soul mate thing. Where's the girl that used to kick my butt when we played kiss chase in Primary school?" He said nudging me.

"Oh I'm still here but now I don't have to use fists to kick your butt." I said with a chuckle giving his a playful smirk. Izzy chose that moment to make some noises. "Hey little angel, you decided to wake up finally?" I picked her up and cradled her to my chest. I looked down at her little chubby cheeks and couldn't help but think how cute she is. "Come on

let's get you a bottle shall we?" I looked up at Riley who was watching me intently.

"She really is yours?" He asked.

"Yup and do you know what sucks I didn't even get to do the fun part in making her I just had to do the painful job, seriously I'm not having any kids for a few years to come, I've already got an instant family cos now that Nate, Holly and I totally got his dad sucked into the demon realm well let's just say those kids down there are now our responsibility. I am so glad most of them are old enough to take care of themselves." I looked from the baby in my arms to the bag on the bed with all of my favourite things.

"umm do you think you could carry that bag down?" I asked batting my lashes at him.

"Yeah no problem. Just to warn you Ari that Blake dude is getting all antsy, seriously who got his knickers in a twist?" Riley said as he grabbed the bag which I knew was really heavy, as if it was merely a bag of sugar.

I waited for Riley to open the bedroom door and walk out before I followed. I took one last look before I shut the door on my old life. Although it has been my home for 18 years the house just doesn't fell like home anymore and a bit cramped, I think the palace and sleeping outdoors for a couple of weeks will do that to you. I walked into the living room to see everyone gathered around the TV watching none other than Escape From Antoria. There in the middle of the screen was Nate and I just before our first kiss because we didn't have the facial markings and I had just finished reading the book for the first time.

Oh here it comes, it was weird I was watching it on the screen at the same time I watching the moment over again in my head. I watched as I stumbled into his arms, Nate asking if I was OK; the two of us looking intently into each other's eyes before I grabbed his chin and I slammed his lips on to mine. All of the girls in the room went aww. I rolled my eyes but watched in fascination as Nate and I began to get a strange glow the instant our lips touched and then the fire that burst from my skin to encompass the two of us crating gasps from everyone in the

room. I watched as the markings slowly etched themselves on to our skin simultaneously, to say it was incredible would be an understatement. I turned looked at the Antorians but their faces were glued to the screen as they watched in awe and confusion. Maybe we can get a TV in Antoria if I beg Blake enough.

The titles on the show began when Nate and I on screen pulled apart in a bit of a daze and began tracing the markings. "Do you know we have a preview of tomorrows season finale." Holly said as she flicked through all of the things stored in Sky plus. "Here we go." She pressed play and I watched in awe. It was the final battle. You could see the concentration on all of our faces and then there was the screams of protest as he got sucked into the ground, the lightning and then finally the aftershock when Nate and I slammed into the wall but as Holly went hurtling towards the wall Blake jumped in the way and caught her getting knocked onto his butt.

I looked at Blake with nothing but gratitude. "Thank you for keeping her safe." He just nodded and

snatched the remote off of Holly and turned the TV off.

"Right as much as I like to watch TV I think we should get going we still have to do the cleansing to capture all that escaped. So come on kiddies you need to decide if you're coming or going." Blake said getting up.

My mum and dad got up. "We're coming there's no way we're missing this. Not like we're leaving anything behind." My mum said holding my dad's hand.

I looked at Maddox who was frozen on the couch. "What about you? Do you want to come? I'd really like the chance to get to know you."

"Yeah I'm soo coming." He whispered and when I caught his eye I saw the excitement in them.

"Ok looks like a family outing." Holly said with a smirk.

"Maddox take the car seat out we'll need the extra space so I'll just on to Izzy. The rest of you pack a bag with anything you want to take with you." I bossed.

Not even 20 minutes later we were all piled back into the cars and we drove back to the beach front. As we passed my old school I couldn't help but think that Bay House was just a whole other world to me now which is surprisingly accurate.

We once again trailed along the path back to devils drop. The mud had been recently turned over indicating some kids had been there recently but Blake didn't think anything of it. Instead he drew on the ground with a stick and chanted causing then lines he was drawing to glow bright blue before the portal re opened in front of him. Every one walked through the portal in groups. My parents looked at me anxiously before stepping through. Nate and I were the last to walk through but just at the last moment I saw a kid staring at us disappearing through the portal with wide eyes. I don't think he's ever going to forget seeing that. I chuckled as I once again felt the tugging and the soft hum at my ears.

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Chapter 29

Escape From Antoria Part 29

Part 29 enjoy not as long as I would have liked but with essays it's going to be difficult to upload but I've almost finsihed my first one and then I've only got a poem to write for tomorrow woo!!

Chapter 28

The next thing I knew I was back in the ridiculously large drawing room but the force of the portal propelled me forward faster than expected and I fell towards the ground with Izzy still in my arms. I turned my body to protect her from the impact but luckily I was caught by a set of strong arms before I could make contact with the stone floor. I looked up

at my saviour and saw Maddox looking down at me with concern.

"Are you Ok?" He asked his brows pulled together as he surveyed me and Izzy.

"Yeah I'm fine." I responded as he righted me. I looked around for Nate and couldn't help the laughter that spilled from my lips on seeing him sprawled out on the floor. He sat up and gave me a glare but it had a hint of amusement behind it.

"So not funny Ari...you almost fell over too if it wasn't for Maddox. Why couldn't someone catch me?" Nate said as got up off brushing dust off of his clothes.

"Aww, you poor thing." I said walking over to him and pulling him into a one armed hug. I gave him a peck on the lips and was shocked by the brief spurt of flames. "You've got to be kidding me, I can't even give you a peck without the fireworks, and jeez this soul mate thing goes a little bit too far." Nate just chuckled at this.

"You know you love it." He said looking deeply in my eyes so that I was completely mesmerised.

"Your right." I replied before kissing him for longer this time. The familiar warmth of the kisses and flames combined was exhilarating and in my arms I could hear Izzy gurgling in excitement.

A cough interrupted our little moment. "Sorry to interrupt, but even though I like your little fire show , we have work to do." Blake said in a tone that tried to be serious but had a hint of amusement behind it.

"Okay great and mystical leader. Now oh great and mighty Blake please tell us what it is we need to do." I said sarcasm heavy in my voice.

"The trinity needs to seal away the demons that escaped during battle. The other sorcerers have rounded them up but there are too many for them to contain alone. You 3 however are one of the strongest forces to ever exist so we need to go to the courtyard where everyone is waiting. The rest of you may come as long as you stay out of the way." With that Blake turned and walked out the door not waiting for us to follow but we all did without a seconds thought. Blake walked through the castle as if on auto pilot, seriously I am definitely getting a map, because there

is no way that I will ever find my way around this place.

When we got to the courtyard I was relieved to see everyone looking alive and healthy even if they were a bit muddy but my attention was drawn to the centre of the gathered people where a large sphere was floating above the ground and contained inside was nothing but darkness that was contorting and convulsing, looking for a way out of its cage.

I handed Izzy over to my mum giving them both a kiss on the head before I grabbed Nate and Holly's hand. We all stood at equal distances around the sphere. I don't know why but my next actions were almost on auto pilot. Both of my hands that had been balled into my fists at my side opened up and my arms raised themselves out to the sides. From where I was standing I could see Holly and Nate doing it simultaneously and from the looks on their faces they didn't know why they were doing it either.

I felt as if the three of us were connected to one another. I suddenly heard their voices in my head. "Are you ready ?" I asked them. They both nodded so

I conjured the elements at the same time Holly used her powers and strong began to batter us. My hair was blowing in my face but when I managed to remove it from eyes I saw that the three of us were now on the perimeter of a large glowing sphere that pulsed many different colours. It almost looked as if the elements had woven together to create prison bars. I watched as Nate's brows furrowed and the larger sphere shrank so thank in was lying directly on top of the smaller sphere which disappeared on contact.

I was startled when a bolt of lightning struck the sphere and the spaces between the bars glowed a brilliant yellow. Awesome electric fence. "We need to bury it Ari!!" Nate screeched in my head. "I don't know how long I can hold it, they're draining me!" OH shit. I concentrated on creating a fissure in the ground which I slowly expanded. I then invoked fire to create a hardened shell to keep the demons trapped within.

"Ready!" I shouted back. He nodded and together the three of us manipulated our elements so that the

electrified cage was pushed into the ground. I could hear the wails of the demons over the hum of magic but I ignored it. Together we combined our powers to create a strong barrier to hold the demons prisoner beneath the courtyard before I again called upon my power over earth to close the hole. I never felt soo drained in my life and I could feel myself getting faint. "Holly finish it!!" I screeched. I saw a bolt of bright white in front of my eyes as the lightning struck the edges of the gap together but also leaving a message ingrained into the stone that now covered the buried demons. "Beware any who releases the demons within for they shall bring nothing but destruction to the land."

My arms slowly moved to my sides and the connection between the three of us broke. I felt myself get weak at the knees at the same time Nate and Holly did so that we all landed on the ground in jellied heaps. I couldn't help but laugh, we looked like puppets whose strings had been cut. Dior and Aeron put Nate's arms around their necks and hoisted him from the ground. Riley rushed over to help me up but my legs were too jellified so I simply sagged from his

shoulders so he scooped me up in his arms. This is the good thing about the army, makes the boys big and strong.

Blake went over to help Holly up but just as he began to lift her off of the floor he dropped to the ground clutching his head. "No, no, no!!!" He muttered over and over again. "The blood...the death...the despair. Oh no Ari, Nate, Holly...all dead... must not be released...could end everything...all in the hands of one person...but who is she...she must stop it or everyone will die...can't happen...so much death." Blake whispered the last words before slumping unconscious in to Holly's arms. She looked up at me helplessly.

"No need to panic, he's just had a vision." I assured her. "Maddox you look strong, you and Theo take him inside and put him on a bed somewhere, we'll have to wait for him to wake up before we can understand what's going on but whatever it is can't be good. Dad you get Holly. Onward march Riles!!" I shouted the last bit, I suddenly feel less drained because of the adrenaline now pumping through my veins. I know

that whatever Blake saw resulted in the death of Nate, Holly and I and there is no way I am going to let that happen.

Theo and Maddox dragged Blake's limp body back into the castle and the rest of the sorcerers followed with equal looks of confusion on their faces. I caught Nate's eye and he nodded in understanding because he'd too seen it before but that one look showed true fear in his eyes, but hey we stopped most of what he predicted last time so we should be fine...right?

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Chapter 30

Escape From Antoria Part 30

Part 30 ...just a short one to explain Blakes vision and to set up the next chapters I suppose...I'll try and write more soon maybe later today who knows...hope you enjoy!!!

Chapter 29

It took several hours for Blake to awaken; I had even been fitted for my coronation/ wedding dress. When I walked into the bedroom he was propped up on pillows and was looking considerably pale.

"Hey are you OK?" I asked as I sat on the bed. I heard the door open and close but I didn't have to turn around to know that it was Nate.

"I'm fine but your mother and Ingrid are being stubborn and won't let me out of this god damn bed." He huffed. "I suppose I better tell you about what I saw because it involves all of you."

I nodded and wiggled so that I was more comfortable before grabbing his hand and giving it a light squeeze. He looked petrified bless him.

"There's a demon still on the loose but it's possessed someone but the thing is there's no way to tell who until it's too late. From what I saw, they couldn't open the cage, but someone else can, but they don't know what they're doing. Whoever this girl is she is very powerful because she has the power to banish the demon for good. I have to warn you there's a chance you both could die..." He whispered the last part but for some reason I wasn't scared.

"We'll stop this Blake." I said giving his hand another squeeze.

"You don't understand Ari, the person who is possessed by the demon could be doing it now or he could wait 20 years there's no way to tell when it'll attack and the girl...how can we stop her from

opening the cage in the first place when we don't know who she is. I didn't get to see her face, heck the only reason I know it's a girl is the fact she has boobs." He said snatching his hand from mine and running it through his hair in frustration.

"So what do we do?" I asked. Was this all as hopeless as it sounds? There's got to be something we can do.

"All we can do is wait for the demon to make his first move Ari." He sighed glancing around the room before finally looking back at me. "You two have to take extra care because remember the conditions of being soul mates...if one dies... so does the other..." Blake left that hanging in the air and I couldn't help but panic what if I get killed and Nate dies too who will look after Izzy and Sammy?

Nate came up behind me and wrapped his arms around me murmuring comforting words in to my ear.

"OK we can do this..the wedding and the coronation is in a week...we can do this..."It sounded more like I was trying to reassure myself. "Apparently it's like a joint thing we have to confirm our vows to each

other before I can take the oath as queen ...so we should be able to keep an eye on the demon hell hole...the coronation though...that will distract everyone so let us assume that is when the demon will attack. But we can't cancel it so we will have to double security on that day." I continued rambling for 10 minutes but I was too lost in my own thoughts to take notice of what I was saying...who the hell does the demon possess? By the end of the week I can see myself being ridiculously paranoid.

Any ideas on who'll be possessed haha ...Just to warn you someone is going to die aswell but can you guess who??

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Chapter 31

Escape From Antoria Part 31

Part 31 enjoy!!

Chapter 30

The week flew by and I have got to say I was definitely right about the paranoia; to say I was irritating would be an understatement. I was pacing around the bedroom waiting for my mum and Maya to come back with Ingrid who had been to collect the coronation/ wedding dress. Damn idiots thought they'd do the traditional thing of bride can't see the groom the night before the wedding so it's be approximately 12 hours since I've seen him and the state of panic I've been in, I have to say it's driving

me crazy. I decided to have a shower because I just couldn't handle the waiting anymore.

I threw off my clothes and walked into the bathroom and once again marvelled at it. It was like a heaven. I jumped under the hot water which immediately began to pound into my skin. I stood there letting the water to relax my tense muscles and sighed as I felt myself loosen up. I couldn't help but think of the date Nate and I had yesterday. He had made a picnic and mum looked after the kids so we had the whole day to ourselves. It was great, no worries just kissing... and a little bit more kissing underneath the blossom trees. It was perfect, I gave a contented sigh.

"What do you think you are doing?!" Someone shouted and I screamed bloody murder and jumped backwards so that I slipped out of the shower onto the floor pulling various piles of towels onto the floor with me on the way down. I am soo not cleaning that up.

"Oww what the hell is your problem?" I shouted back as I picked up one of the towels and stood up wrapping the towel around my body. I looked for the

person who shouted at me and was a bit disconcerted when I saw Ingrid, my mum, Maya and the twins in the doorway, gaping at me. Well the twins were rolling on the floor laughing and Ingrid was barely holding back a smile but it's beside the point. Why the hell are they gaping at me?

"Why are you gaping? Have I got something on my face?" I asked going over to the mirror and checking myself over and seeing nothing I turned back to them. They were still gaping so I raised a brow at them. My mum seemed to snap out of it then.

"I knew you had a lot of those markings but when you said all over I didn't think you meant literally all over." She said gazing over my exposed skin. Lab rat much. I shifter uncomfortably, does it really look that bad? As if reading my thought my mum smiled at me in reassurance. "Honey it didn't mean it nastily, they are beautiful." She said sounding kind of awed; yeah, not weird at all.

"OK so what was it you guys wanted?" I said crossing my arms over my chest protectively.

"You need to get ready you idiot." The twins chimed in at the same time. I rolled my eyes.

"Fine." I said and strolled back into the bedroom with them close on my heels.

I was immediately shuffled onto a chair in the middle of the room where they immediately began fiddling with my hair and make-up I just sighed and sat back in the seat, I really can't be bothered with this. I just want to get this dress up malarkey. They spent about an hour doing all that before they decided it was time for me to get dressed. About bloody time I was freezing my butt off in just a towel.

"Here we go!" Maya squealed as she opened the dress bag. It was a gorgeous white lace wedding dress.

I'm surprised they went for that because it's more of a coronation ceremony. Yeah Nate and I have to exchange rings for show but really a white dress?? Oh well mum looks happy. Mum chucked some underwear at me and I went into the bathroom to change before coming out again in matching lacy underwear. I even had a garter. I had the towel wrapped tightly around me. Yeah they've already

seen my body but I seriously don't want them to see it again.

My mum just ripped it away from me. "Mum!!" I squealed.

"Stop being a baby we've all seen it before." She said which caused me to blush furiously and earned a chuckle from the others. "Okay step into the dress." I did as I was told and stood there patiently as they did up the dress.

"All done." Maya said jumping up and down on the spot. Even though Maya was older than me, I somehow got the impression I was the mature one, which is saying a lot. "I'll go get the big mirror." She said before tearing out of the room.

"Ok just the shoes." The twins stepped forward with a pair of delicate white shoes that also had lace on them. "Now we're done."

Maya chose that moment to come back empty handed but the clanging of metal hitting stone made my eyebrows furrow. What the hell? Not even a minute later Riley and Maddox came in with a giant

mirror that was embedded in a golden frame. They placed it on the floor before taking notice of me at which point both of their eyes widened.

"What is it that bad?" I said shakily. Oh not good. I knew I shouldn't have trusted them.

"Take a look for yourself Ari." Riley said recovering himself.

[Ari in coronation/wedding dress http://mjbridal.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/lace2.jpg]

I did as I was told and all I can say is wow. Ok when did they put the goddamn flowers in my hair??

"I look..." But I couldn't quite finish the sentence.

"Beautiful." Riley whispered before giving me a bone crushing hug.

"Yeah you look stunning sis." Maddox said giving me a slightly awkward hug.

"Thanks." I mumbled as I looked in the mirror once more.

"You guys ready?" My dad asked as he walked into the room. I nodded. "Let's go then." He held out his

arm to me and I wrapped my own around out. I can't believe this is really happening!! I am going to be a bloody queen!

"Oh and just to warn you Ari there's a procession after this where they take you and your new hubby for a ride round the capital whilst you're wearing your freshly polished crown." Riley said with a smirk. Oh great just what I need.

The dragged me down the stairs and through the castle until they reached the throne room which had undergone a major transformation. The room was now filled with chairs and aisle down the centre and the room had been decorated but more befitting to a coronation than a wedding thank god. Each of the seats with men and women dressed in all sorts of finery and there at the end of the ridiculously long aisle stood Nate with a huge grin on his face. The wedding procession started up and I couldn't help but chuckle at how different to ours it was. It sounded so...exotic.

When I reached the raised platform with the thrones, my dad handed me over to Nate and took at seat next

to my mum in the front row. Then some priest dude started talking. Where the hell did he come from?

"We are here today to acknowledge the bonding between these two people before the eyes of the God's and the people on Antoria. If anyone has a reason for this marriage not to be sanctified please speak now." There was complete and utter silence...thank you Rosmardin!! "They will now exchange rings to symbolise their union, to symbolise their promise to one another to love and cherish for as long as they both live." Nate and I slipped on identical gold bands on one another's fingers whilst grinning like idiots. He blabbed on for ages but his tone changed after a while and I could tell it was drawing to a close thank god; this priest sure likes to talk. "...To uphold the principles of marriage and uniting with another is one of the greatest gifts that life has to offer. With the power invested in me and the vows you have taken I now pronounce you two bonded for life as man and wife. Your majesty, you may kiss your bride."

The priest didn't have to tell Nate twice as I was tugged forward into a passionate embrace. His hands instantly became entangled in my hair and he pressed his lips to mine. The rush I felt was 100 times more intense than any other kiss we'd shared. It was like our emotions were being put into it. I didn't have to open my eyes to know there was fire glowing on my skin because I could hear the gasps of the people in the audience. I suppose it's got to be pretty terrifying seeing two people on fire.

We broke apart eventually and were both panting for air. When we turned to face the audience they whooped and cheered. Damn I feel special. Now, on to the important and scary bit; some official looking guy and the priest were up on stage with a strong burly man standing next to a small white marble column which held a pillow with the crowns sat on top of it.

Nate and I walked over to the thrones that were sitting side by side and stood in front of one each. I was grateful that I didn't have to say anything on

Nate had to. They made him swear some oath, to govern

with his heart and to protect his people to the best of his ability blah, blah, blah.

"I swear." Nate kept repeating in response to the priests questioning. "...I swear." The official looking dude lifted the huge chunky crown with tonnes if jewels in it and placed it on top on Nate's head.

"And whom in the front of these here witnesses do you proclaim to rule by your side?" The priest asked him.

"I proclaim my wife Arianna of the La Chantrell bloodline to rule by my side as queen." He replied in a strong booming voice that reeked of authority. The priest picked up the delicate crown from the cushion and placed it on top of my head.

"And so it is done!" The priest said raising his arms above his head as if he was praising to the heavens. Sounds more like a magic spell or something than a wedding if I am being honest.

With that Nate and I stepped backwards so that our legs touched the edge of our thrones and then with more grace than I knew I possessed I sat back in the seat and looked over at the people before us. I could see my mum and dad gazing up at me with pride. The people got up from their seats and bowed to Nate and I before the ones on the edge of the aisles pulled out a sword and raised it across the aisle so there was sea of swords, tip to tip, creating an archway for us to walk under.

"Presenting, their Royal Highnesses King Nathaniel and Queen Arianna." At this Nate and I both stood up with our heads held high and walked towards the archway.

I didn't see what happened next I just felt myself being shoved to the ground. The same happened with Nate and by that familiar cussing I'm guessing Holly just got pushed on her butt too. Who the heck pushed me? I looked to my side and saw my dad staring right in to my face unblinking.

"Dad?" I asked quietly but I got no response. "DAD!!!" I shouted rolling him over but his body wouldn't lay

flat due to the blade sticking out of his back. Sobs began to spill from my body as I pulled the dagger from his back before pulling him into my lap and watching as tears dripped from my face on to his. I looked at Nate to check he was OK and couldn't help but sigh when I saw he was fine and Sam who had pushed him out of the way had a small nick on his face.

I scanned the room for the perpetrators and couldn't help but gasp when I saw three black eyed boys standing in front of me with about 50 swords pointed at their chests. Sammy, Dior and Theo all stared towards us without a single emotion on their features. "You killed him!!" I shouted at them.

"Now, now, watch how you talk to your elders." Theo hissed in a cold and emotionless voice. I involuntarily shuddered. "Don't worry I won't try to kill you again...yet. Just as soon as I've released my brothers from the cage you can do what you like." The demon possessed boys zoned out for a minute before a loud cracking sound echoed throughout the

room. "Looks like it's time to go open a cage, I'll be seeing you!!"

With that the black faded from the boys eyes and a black mist hung in the air for a few seconds afterwards before disappearing. All three boys looked equally scared and confused.

"What's going on?" Dior asked as Sammy burst into tears. He clutched the crying child to his side as he surveyed the swords a pointing at his chest. I just ignored him I didn't have time for this.

"Is everyone alright?" I asked gently lowering my dad's head onto the stone floor. I don't think my mum even noticed until then what was in my arms but at the sight of the body in my lap she dropped to the floor and an indescribable wail left her lips. If I wasn't crying already I would definitely have started upon hearing that.

"Ari?" I heard a voice sob from behind a crowd of people. "I need help, he's hurt..." I jumped off of the ground and pushed people out of the way to get where Holy's voice was coming from. I couldn't help but feel my stomach turn at the sight of Blake lying in

a pool of blood. There was an identical knife on the floor to the one that had been imbedded into my father's back. I looked at Blake who was slightly ashen and was clutching tightly onto his leg, his hands coated in blood.

How the hell am I supposed to sort that out? "Mum who's got Izzy? She can heal him right up?" I called out.

It wasn't my mum who replied. It was Dior. "She's gone. He made Sammy take her. None of us could stop ourselves...it's like you're there but then at the same time you're not."His voice was so quiet when he said this that I had to strain to hear him. But I don't care about most of what he'd said only those first two words...she's gone.

I grabbed part of the wedding dress and tore it so that I had some strips giving me some gasps from the women in the audience but I didn't pay attention. I tied the strips of material above the wound on his leg and pulled it so that it was really tight. "We need to get him to a doctor. Blake? How do we open the portal?" I asked.

"I can do it...you need...to stop...the demon...Izzy isn't in this world any...more...I think he put her in the human world. " I nodded as he closed his eyes and scrunched his brows together.

"Nate we've got a demon to stop." I said as I got up off of the ground. I caught sight of my mum bent over my dad's body but i pushed it to the back of my mind. Now was definitely not the time.

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Chapter 32

Escape From Antoria Part 32

Part 32 nothing special but I hope you enjoy it none the less :D

Chapter 31

I grabbed one of the swords off of one of the men and cut off the bottom part of my dress and then I cut a slit up the sides so that the dress was now just above my knees and I had enough room to move my legs without looking like a penguin.

"Ok, who's ready to kick some demon butt?!?" I said as I righted myself and handed the sword back to its owner. I received fierce growls of approval before

everyone started charging towards the door. I followed behind tugging Nate with me.

I heard another cracking sound and a sound of eerie groaning and wailing as we reached the door to the courtyard... What the hell is that? I pushed a few of the people out of the way who had chosen to conveniently block the doorway.

I gasped at what I saw. There was a huge crack in the ground that ran the length of the courtyard but around the very spot where Nate and I had imprisoned the demons was now a huge gaping hole. The cage was now slowly lifting from the hole as the demon raised his hands. I could faintly hear the demon chanting but couldn't understand any of the words.

I waited from something to happen but the only difference was the sphere glowed brighter than before.

The demon screamed in frustration before disappearing in a cloud of black smoke and reappearing directly in front of me where he picked me up by my neck.

"Why isn't it working?!" He hissed. I didn't recognise the person it was possessing but he was ridiculously handsome not that it made much difference. My eyes began to blur as I clawed at the hand that held me off of the ground.

"I ...don't ...know!!" I shouted in between gasped but it only came out as a quiet whisper.

"Don't lie to me!!! I am one of the most powerful demons in existence and yet I cannot break this cage...tell me why or you shall die!!" The demon screeched at me as he dropped me to the floor where I gasped for breath.

"She doesn't know!!" Blake called out from behind me. I heard him grunt before he hobbled into view with his arm around Holly's neck. "The cage cannot be opened by demons or any other force for evil. It's kind of an insurance policy; only the touch of someone pure of heart can open it. And as for you demon, for you heinous acts here today, you too shall be imprisoned along with your brothers." With that Blake nodded at me. Nate, Holly and I all raised our hands at the same time and pushed the demon with

all our might; wrapping him in string of power like that on the cage. As we pushed him the demon thrashed and cried out in rage.

"NO!! You won't trap me!!" The demon shot black clouds out of his hands which consumed the sphere and when it cleared again the sphere was gone. "You cannot trap me. The next time you see me the cage will be opened and you will all bow to me as the new apocalypse begins." With that the demon gave off an evil laugh and disappeared into a black mist.

I looked at Blake. "What do we do now?" I asked him. He took a deep breath and winced as he shifted nervously from foot to foot. He stared off after a second and his eyes began twitching as if they were watching something none of us could see.

"She's no longer in this world but on earth...I can't tell where...he purposely blocked her but even he doesn't know where she is...he's searching... he thinks she can open the sphere...she will be safe though... Rosmardin will protect her until she is ready to protect herself..." He trailed off.

"Protect who?" Sam butted in as he wiped the blood of his cheek.

"Isadora!!" He said before blinking rapidly and then focusing back on us. "All we can do is wait. The cage and Izzy are beyond our reach. I will go back to earth and try to find her because should she get into the hands of Malicious then we will all be in grave peril for it will kick start the apocalypse in both Antoria and earth." Blake shuddered. "Only a few will survive as all those who are not immune to the power of the demon magic will turn violent and bloodthirsty. This cannot happen; I will not let it happen. Nate and Ari as the king and queen you must remain here and protect the people for Malicious, he said he wouldn't return but I can guarantee he will try and cause as much trouble as possible, it is the way of the demons."

"I'll come with you if you wait until after my dad's funeral...I don't want to be on your own." Holly said as she shifted his weight on her shoulders. "And beside who's going to look after you whilst you heal."

Blake looked resigned as his eyes became unfocused once more. I watched as different emotions passed across his face and couldn't help but smile as his eyes widened whilst flicking towards Holly before his features softened and a delicate smile played on his lips. I know it's weird but I think Holly and him are perfect for each other, I still don't agree with it because she's my baby sister and he's 20? I really should ask his age I'm sure he told me a few times but I wasn't really listening. However, I know he will protect her and by the look on his face, will come to care for her greatly.

Blake snapped out of his trance state and smiled at Holly. "Fine, you can come but only if your mother agrees." At the mention of our mother both Holly and I dropped our smiles and fell into a more sombre state.

"Come on H. She needs us." I said before walking back into the castle.

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Chapter 33

Escape From Antoria Part 33

OK I might do one more part after this and then I'll see how it goes :D Hope you enjoy though I kind of doubt it but anyways...

Chapter 32

The next day we were all sullenly dressed in black with emerald sashes across our chests. Apparently it's an ancient Antorian tradition, I didn't really understand the symbolism just something to do with the black for mourning and the green for life...why you would represent life at a funeral I will never know.

The funeral procession wound throughout the town just outside the castle walls and towards the forest where we had emerged on that night of battle. The entire family walking behind the royal carriage with unknown people joining as the carriage passed. As we went past all of the villagers bowed their heads in respects and threw lilies and roses into the path of the carriage that was carrying my father's body which now resembled a mummy. They haven't even heard of coffins; apparently it's get cremated or get cremated. To me the respect that the villagers were showing my father was not unlike a state funeral. It was like he was someone who was loved and respected by them a bit like Lady Diana. Not that my dad actually did anything for them.

"That's not true Ari, he saved you." Nate whispered in my ear so that only I could hear it. We still need to figure out the two way mind reading. "And to the people, that is one of the most honourable things a man can do, protect the monarchy, especially when they finally get a good and kind monarch after one like my father." I nodded. How do you reply to that? How the hell do they know I am a good monarch I

had been here for not even a week and I could have taken down the king because I wanted control over the lands for myself? Jeez these people are way too trusting.

We finally reached the edge of the town and came into a large field that created a bridge between the forest and the town. In the centre of the field was a huge mountain of sticks that made up the funeral pyre. I watched as 2 centennials along Nate, Riley, Sam and Maddox carried my father's limp form over to the pyre. Together they gently laid him down on the raised platform. They each placed a flower and a coin around the body as a sign of respect and something to do with the afterlife. I wasn't paying attention to be honest I was a more concerned with comforting my mother who spent the entire night crying her eyes out.

Slowly one by one the people gathered went forward with the offerings. I felt bad because even people who obviously lived on the streets had paid for flowers as tokens of respect. I think they were crazy

personally because it's all going to get burnt anyway. I sighed I can't put this off any longer.

"Come on mum. It's..it's time to say goodbye." I said wrapping an arm around her shoulder as her body shook with silent sobs and she clutched a red rose and a ice white lily to her chest. She eventually took tentative steps towards the pyre. I couldn't possibly imagine what she is going through because when Nate dies, I die I suppose that is one thing to be grateful for. I don't think I could live without him now and I know that sounds like a soppy romance novel but it's true. Before I never needed a boyfriend I was content but now I couldn't imagine living without out my man.

"And you won't have to." Nathan's voice echoed in my head. Oh seems like he figured it out then. Damn Jerk!! I dropped my own flower and coin onto the pyre and went and stood back with the line of people. Watching and waiting for the now lit pyre to engulf my father's body in flames.

It was oddly mesmerising watching the flames lick up the sides of the pyre; fires dancing as if to their

own beat. I couldn't take my eyes off it and only when I felt someone tug on my arm as a signal to leave did I realise that most of the pyre had been consumed along with my father within the dancing flames.

The walk back to the castle was slow and agonising. It was like it finally hit...he's gone and he's never coming back. It also allowed me to think of the other special person that was missing in my life, Izzy. Where the hell did that sneaky demon put her? Oh and not to mention I should be worried because that demon is very destructive not only can he cause chaos by turning people against each other with blinding rage but he is the demon of disease. It was quite lucky he didn't spread it when he was here last but it turns out the next village over was not so lucky, over 100 dead. I sighed as I dragged my feet which felt as if they were weighed down by led right about now. So much has happened in such a short time that it is just overwhelming. I mean I spent my wedding night with Nate but instead of it being about love and happiness is was about seeking solace and comfort in one another. Not the way you plan it. To make it

worse tomorrow Nate and Holly would return to the human world with Ryan and some other sorcerer who was from that realm. Hopefully they find Izzy sooner rather than later.

I have one thing to be grateful for out of all this, the demon obviously doesn't know where Izzy is because from the wave of destruction that he's left behind him, he's searching and he can go on searching. What kind of idiot hides something then forgets where they put it?

All I can hope is that Izzy is safe and that Holly and Blake will bring her back to me. I'm hoping sooner rather than later but looking for a single baby out of all the babies on the planet. Well let's just say it will take a long time to find her.

When we reached the castle once more, my feet were throbbing but it was a good pain, it made me realise that I could still feel something. I felt strong, warm arms wrap around my waist as I walked into the main courtyard. I caught sight of the huge gaping hole in the ground and felt my breath catch. I can't wait until it's filled in. Every time I see it, it just

reminds me of the demons that could be unleashed at anytime and if that's not scary then I don't know what is.

"How are you doing?" Nate asked as he rested his head on my shoulder.

"Not so good but I'll live. I'm more worried about everyone else than myself." I sighed as I continued to drag my feet. Nate unwrapped one of his arms from my waist and shifted behind me. What the hell? Next thing I know he is carrying me bridal style. "I can walk you know." I huffed.

"Oh I don't doubt that but you're taking longer than my great aunt Daisy" He replied with a chuckle as we watched his great aunt Daisy power walk ahead of us into the castle. I only hope I'm like that at her age and felt my lips twitch into an almost smile.

Nate carried me up to our room and insisted on helping me change for the party tonight. Another Antorian tradition, instead of a glum wake they literally celebrate the dearly departed which I preferred. My dad wouldn't have wanted a room full of glum people and only a few of us knew him so it

would be pointless to have a wake. At least this way people get to have fun in his memory. I was now in a cute black dress, and again with the green sash which was now tied around my waist so that it looked more like a belt.

Nate just changed into a more loose fitting black suit which clung loosely to his body. He put his green sash back on as I was slipping into a pair of heels., I swear they're trying to kill me. "Ok let's go." I said in a quiet voice and Nate immediately walked over to me in time for the tears to pour down my face.

"Shh, it's ok." He whispered in my ear but that just made me sob harder.

"How can it be ok? My dad's dead and Izzy is missing. Why did they have to be taken away? What if they get you or Holly next? What if they get your family too?" I ranted as I pressed my face into his chest soaking his clean shirt. Oops.

"You have to believe everything will be ok. I know it hurts that your dad is gone and I can't say the pain will go away because it won't but eventually you'll be able to live with it. As for Izzy, don't you think I'm

hurting too? She was as much mine as she was yours. I want to go with Blake and Holly to look for her but I know if I leave thousands of lives will be at risk. It is my duty to protect the people from that demon." He said as he buried his head into my hair. "We will get her back and we will be a family. Blake said wherever she is, that Rosmardin is looking after her so you should trust that she will be ok. OK?" He finished with a question and not sure what else to do so I merely nodded my head.

"OK." I whispered trying to give him a smile but I'm sure it came out more as a grimace.

"Come on Ari. Enjoy yourself for your dad. I don't think he would have liked to have seen you like this." With that he grabbed my hand and pulled me out of the bedroom.

On the way to the party, we knocked on the doors for his brothers and sisters so that we all went down together. Little Sammy practically jumped into my arms and the twins hugged into Nate and my sides. The rest of our siblings followed numbly behind.

When we reached the room there was an orchestra in the wings playing all kinds of music and the Antorians were doing all this weird dancing. Like hell I can dance like that!!! Riley, Maddox, Holly and I jsut stood on the sidelines wide eyed. Blake was sat on a chair with his leg resting upon another chair across from him moving with the music. I have no idea where my mum is. Oh wait...no way!!

Swirling round the dance floor in the arms of that old man was my mum and she actually had a smile on her face which I was relieved to see. Damn I'm surprised that old man can move that fast I always got the impression he'd pop a hip if he moved too fast.

Nate came over and asked me to dance and my response was... "...ummmm." Yeah, real decisive which he decided to take for a yes and dragged me into the middle of the room. "You do realise I don't know how to dance right?" I asked shakily.

He just smirked at me and began pulling me around the dance floor. I tried to keep up but with my two

left feet it just wasn't happening. I looked like Bambi on ice which definitely wasn't a good thing.

In the end I got fed up and brought down my iPod and speakers lucky for me they are battery operated though I will have to get something to charge them up somehow cos I can't cope without my music. I thought it was hilarious when I turned on my iPod and Kesha Tik Tok came on, I immediately started jumping around along with Holly screaming out the lyrics receiving very strange looks from the Antorians. A lot of them were looking around for the source of the music and when they came across my iPod, were completely baffled. My mum just smiled at us and eventually we got Riley, Maddox and Ryan up dancing with us. Nate also reluctantly joined in but looked scandalised when we tried showing him some of the other moves. I don't think they're quite ready for earth culture yet.

"So this is what you dance like on earth?" He asked cautiously. I had given up with trying to get him to do anything other than jump around it wasn't worth the hassle I got when I started shaking my butt a bit. He

looked a little tired now from all the jumping around but for me it was nothing it's just like any night out with the girls. You drink; you jump around with the girls, and pretend you actually have rhythm whilst dancing with boys. Makes me laugh the amount of time people try to teach me to dance but I can tell you it will never happen so for the most part I just jump around.

The next song came on and it was a Frank Sinatra classic that also happened to my dad's favourite but I left it on even if it did make me feel all teary eyed. "This is for you dad." I thought as Nate grabbed my hand and pulled me to him so that we could slow dance. I laid my head on his chest and sighed. It was coming to the end of the night and tomorrow I was going to lose several of my friends. I don't know, it just feels like the weight of the world is on my shoulders. I lost myself in Nate and just tried to forget about every little worry I had so that I could just enjoy being with him in his arms.

The song came to an end and I reluctantly went over and turned it off. The majority of people had already

left and it was just our family and friends that stayed. I murmured goodnight to them all and allowed Nate to drag me along to our room. I was too tired to care. It had been a long day and although I felt guilty for having fun, I think the Antorians have one thing right by celebrating the dead and remembering who they were rather that the earth way of mourning and being all doom and gloom. I don't know, to me it feels like a better way to remember your loved ones.

When I got to the room I sleepily changed my clothes and then crawled into bed next to Nate. He wrapped his arms tightly around me before kissing me on my forehead. "Goodnight Ari." I faintly heard him whisper as I fell into a dreamless sleep.

The next morning I was awoke early because the sun wasn't even up. Either that or I'd slept a whole 24 hours. God I hope not. I got up out of the bed and just to annoy Nathan I ripped the bed sheets off of him but he simply grunts and rolled over. Idiot! I sighed and headed into the bathroom to have and a shower. I got changed and put on a green dress that yet again made me look like I was an extra to some Robin

Hood style show. It was a white dress with grey/silver bits on it. I wish they had given me a different colour because white and I, as well as Sammy is probably not a good idea.

http://www.roxx-online.com/roxxonline/images/productPhotos/Ice%20blue%20&%20purple%20taffeta%20medieval%20dress%

I got fed up of waiting for Nate to wake up on his own so I pushed him off of the bed which earned me some curses. Huh...who knew he had it in him?

"Come on you need to get dressed they'll be leaving in about an hour and I want to say goodbye to them."I whined like I was a 4 year old.

"Fine. Give me a minute." Nate opened up the wardrobe and pulled out some clothes, ooh blue nice. With that he disappeared into the bathroom and re-emerged minutes later in a cloud of steam all dressed with his wet hair sticking to his head. One word, hot!! "Ok I'm ready." He said with a smirk as he met my eyes. Damn it. I will figure out how to do this mind reading thing cos this really sucks when it's a one way thing.

"Let's go then." I said with a smile. I twined my fingers with Nate's and then pulled him towards the door but he tugged on my arm so that I was pulled against him.

"They will all be safe and we will get her back." Nate said trying to reassure me but it sounded like he was trying to reassure himself. He pulled me into a kiss and for once there was no fire...no the kiss was something completely different. My hair whipped around and it felt cooler than when the kisses were made of fire. It's like the reaction of the kisses all depends on our emotions. I opened one eye to look and yup it was blue. Weird thing was that watching the blue swirling and contorting around us made me feel safe, relaxed, like everything was going to be ok.

"Come on, we have to go." I said as I reluctantly pulled away from Nate's soft lips and watched the blue surrounding us slowly recede. He was still kind of dazed from the kiss so I just dragged him towards the door. I was starting to know my way around; well I knew the route to the kitchen, which I think is the

best room in the palace because there's food!!! What I wouldn't give for a KFC or a McDonald's.

We turned just before we got to the kitchen and ended up in the smaller more private dining room which

had a more rustic feel to it. The whole family was there and everyone was chatting happily as they wolfed down the food. I took a seat in between Holly and my mum, immediately piling the plate high with bacon, eggs and toast. Mmmm. We didn't really talk about anything in particular, we just talked about silly nonsense but to be honest, it didn't matter it was just nice to have everyone together.

Eventually, it got to that time. Everyone suddenly became very solemn as we glanced from one another.

"Come on H it's time." I said getting up from the table. She followed and I could see tears in her eyes. Everyone else got up from the table too and then Nate led the way back to the drawing room where Blake had drawn the symbols for the portal on our last visit. I didn't really focus on the journey I was just clinging onto Holly's hand. She was squeezing it

to reassure me but damn it she's my baby sister I should be going not her but I have to be here. Damn why did I have to become queen?!!!

When we got back into the room we all lined up around the wall whilst Blake murmured the incantations to open the portal. I watched as the glowing archway form in the centre of the symbols. Everyone who was going through stepped forward. I immediately pulled Holly into a hug as tears began flowing in earnest down my cheeks. "You be good, you hear?" I whispered into her ear as I squeezed her tighter. I got a nod in return so I reluctantly let go. Next I hugged Ryan, I haven't known him long but he feels like family now but I suppose being in a life threatening situation will do that to you.

Lastly I hugged Blake. I pulled him tightly to me and whispered in his ear. "I want you to promise me you'll keep her safe." He nodded at this and pulled me tighter as my body began to convulse with sobs. I tried to lighten the mood a bit as I pulled away."You better keep her safe or I'll hunt your ass down." This got me a small chuckle. Oh yeah almost forgot. "And

mister, don't take advantage of my sister" I watched as his eyebrows disappeared into his hairline. "Don't give me that look, from the way she looks at you and recently you look at her I can tell there is something there...but please for me be careful, I don't want either of you to get hurt and besides she's my baby sister it wouldn't be right if I didn't warn of the big bad boyfriend now would it." I finished with a big grin. "Just keep her safe and bring back Izzy if you can."

Blake nodded one last time before hobbling into the portal. Ryan followed and so did a few others. Holly

was just about to follow when she saw me and mum crying our eyes out so she rushed over and pulled us into one last bone crunching hug and disappeared into the portal. Not even 30 seconds after she went through the portal disappeared and my little sister was gone.

Meanwhile on earth

Aurora POV

I bloody hate it when the elders boss me around. Go to earth for your first charge. Blah Blah Blah. Who cares? I don't want to look after some brat and they know it. I think this is just some way to stop me being the rebellious one of the realm and considering I am royalty as well, that just means they are more determined to straighten me out.

Just then I heard a twig snap and I saw a cursed demon holding a ...baby? Oh heck no he's got my charge the filthy animal. I waited until the opportune moment and stabbed the demon with my dagger that had been enchanted by centuries of Fae elders, see how he likes that! The demons body began to slump to the ground but I caught it before I could move and swiftly took the baby from his arms.

I surveyed the bundle and frowned as I unravelled the cloth that was holding it. Well it's a girl but seriously what the hell she's not a fairy...are they messing with me?

"Who are you little one?" I asked. As if, she can't even understand me.

"

I understand you perfectly." A melodious voice said. What the hell? "My name is Isadora, an ancient and the reason you were sent here is because the Fae are part of my blood. I am Fae but also so much more." OK wow.

"Nice to meet you Isadora I am -"

"Aurora I know. You have a good soul. Rebellious...but good. We shall be good friends." She replied before she 'tuned out' It was like you could hear her disconnecting. Well that was strange. I suppose we better go to my summer home. I closed my eyes so that my wings could come out. It's so much easier doing teleport when they were visible. I took a deep breath and closed my eyes as my scarlet red wings began to beat and I felt the compression before we were standing in the living room of my not so little holiday home.

"Welcome Home Izzy.!"

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Chapter 34

Escape From Antoria Part 34

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part 34

Chapter 33

It has been a few months since Holly and Blake had disappeared through the portal and to say I missed them would be an understatement. They'd sent a message back saying they had discovered a demon who they knew had been charged to take Izzy but he had been slain by some unknown magic. Apparently it was pure earth magic. Whatever the hell that means. Riley and Maya have gotten close and you can really see the sparks between them. Will it work

out well, I don't know but I'm hoping so, we need some happiness right now.

Nate and I have been extremely busy. That damn demon has been causing unbelievable amounts of havoc in the cities. He had destroyed some of the most important buildings in Antoria and had spread disease throughout the lower kingdom. To say it's been stressful would be a serious understatement.

Today however is going to be a day of rest and relaxation...well that's what Nate said but I don't know if I can believe him, these troubles just seem to follow us.

I waited in the lobby for Nate patiently, well it was patiently for the first half an hour now I'm pacing the floor because his lazy ass is taking too long.

"Sorry I just had to get the kitchens to make us some food." Nate said with an apologetic smile as he came through a door on the opposite side of the lobby from where I was stood. "Now come on there's something I want to show you." With that he walked over and grabbed my hand and then walked over to a wall in the lobby and as pushed in a brick which opened up

another of the secret doors. "Make us some light Ari, I really don't want to trip and lose the food."

I didn't even think about it really and a ball of flames appeared in my hands. I split it in two and chucked the second one in the air. "There you go. Now can you please tell me where we are going?" I begged him. I've been doing this since I found out about the rest and relaxation day he planned but he never tells me anything apart from it's his favourite place to think and relax...like that helps.

I lost count of the number of turns we took and just followed behind Nate aimlessly. He eventually came to a white wall but this wall was different to the rest, instead of stone it was marble and was intricately carved and I'm guessing there is a door somewhere in it but I can't see it. The carving on the wall was beautiful, so realistic; I wish it was real because that place would be a beauty like no other. Nate swept his hand over a flower that was almost unnoticeable in carving but not now that my eye had been drawn to it I couldn't believe the detailing. Nate gently touched

the flower and for a minute nothing happened and I was getting impatient.

"Nate are you sure this is the right-" I was cut off as the flower seemed to grow and the stem contorted until it create an intricate arch within the stone. That was bloody amazing. I don't think I'll ever get bored of magic.

"Right come on before the doorway closes again." Nate said grabbing my hand and pulling me to the arch. What the heck is he on about its bloody marble?!

"Nate. What the he-" I was cut off as he walked through the arch on the marble and disappeared from sight so that all that remained on this side is the hand still grasped around mine. Oh heck. I allowed him to pull me through and what I saw was incredible. I guess my wish came true because I saw an exact replica of the carving except this was the real version. It was even more beautiful than I imagine. The area was covered in trees and all kinds of exotic looking flowers but just ahead there was an opening which leads to a pool of water and a small

water fall. "Wow." I said in a kind of dazed voice as I hungrily surveyed everything and anything.

Nate chuckled and continued to drag me forward towards the pool but turned to the right before we reached the water to a little grass clearing where a picnic blanket had been laid out. Nate let go of my hand and went over and set the basket down on the blanket before taking a seat. I quickly rushed over to join him.

"Nate what is this place?" I asked as I looked over at the waterfall. Is it me or does this place feel...magical...but not the same magic as Nate and I but a purer magic...more earthy...

"I call it the secret garden but I have no idea what its true name is, I was lucky to find it in the first place." He said as he too surveyed the place. "It feels...special though...pure..."

"I felt the same way...kind of earthy... pure earth magic...wait a minute you don't think this place belongs to the same people that destroyed the demon that had Izzy do you?" I asked as I regrettably removed my eyes from the waterfall and looked at

Nate's face. He seemed to consider this before he spoke.

"It's possible, but who wields this magic...it is unlike anything I have ever seen before." He said wistfully.

"Let's not talk about this I want to enjoy your company so do you want to swim first or eat first?"

"Swim? I haven't got anything to swim in." I said as I looked down at myself. "And I can't swim in this I'll drown."

"Just go in your undergarments, no one else knows about this place." He said with a cheeky smirk. I just shook my head and smiled.

"Ok, then I guess we should swim first because I always feel rather hungry after swimming." I said with a smile. I got up of the blanket and tried to untie my dress but I just couldn't reach. I seriously hate all these gowns. They seriously are a pain in the butt to get out of, or in to for that matter. But on the other hand they look beautiful.

"Here let me help you with that." Nate said coming up behind me. He brushed my hair that was hanging

down my back over my shoulder, accidentally brushing my neck as he went causing a shiver to run out of your body. I shook my head to regain my focus as Nate began to unlace my dress. I only noticed he was done when Nate slid his warm course fingers underneath the straps and slid them down my arms taking the whole dress with it so I was now standing in my undergarments which quite frankly left a lot to the imagination as I had decided on traditional Antorian wear today instead of my bra and French knickers I would have normally worn, my mistake because the material on the undergarments is too thick to swim in unless I want to drown. Ah hell, no one is around and I've never skinny dipped before.

I waited for Nate to remove the majority of his clothing before I grabbed his hand and tugged him towards the water's edge. There was a huge boulder a few feet away so I walked over and removed the rest of my clothes and placed them on the boulder before turning shyly to face Nate. I felt so self conscious...I've never been this completely naked in front of his unless it was by accident...yes he walked in on me having a shower...how it was possible for

him not to know I was in there...I bet he did know bloody pervert I rambled not really noticing what was going on. For instance I hadn't noticed that Nate too had removed his clothes and was now encircling his arms around my waist.

When he kissed my neck I snapped out of it and felt my whole body tremble at the smallest of his touches.

"Come on beautiful let's swim!!" He said as placed another tender kiss to my neck and pulled me to the water. I dipped my toe in cautiously and was surprised to find it was warm like bath water warm...strange. Nate let go of me and ran and jumped into the water, when his head bobbed up a few seconds later the water was glistening off of his skin and his golden hair was plastered to his head, that's my angel. I smiled before taking a few steps back.

"Are you ready?" I shouted. I watched as he nodded eagerly before I started running for the water and then jumping off the ground by using a little extra force to propel myself forwards. I let out a girlish

squeal before I was engulfed in the warm water seconds later. I couldn't help but revel at the feel of it against my skin; it just felt ...there were no words.

Nate swam circles around me lazily whilst gradually getting closer. I followed him with my eyes and then waited until he was directly in front of me before splashing him in the face. God the look on his face was priceless but I didn't get a chance to laugh because he dunked me under. Damn it. When I came back up I swam the short distance between us and wrapped my arms around him. "Thank you for this, it was just what I needed." I said before giving him a lingering kiss.

"No problem, anything for my queen." He said with chuckle. "Right I want to chow you something over by the waterfall." He pulled away from me and swam towards the edge of the water and pulled himself out, i couldn't help but admire him as he got out, and damn I am one lucky girl. I shook my head and swam over to him and pulled myself out of the water but let out a string of curses when I scratched myself getting out of the water.

"You ok?" Nate asked concerned. I looked down at my leg and thankfully I hadn't drawn blood.

"Yeah it was just a scratch." I replied before walking back over to the boulder and slipping the Antorian underwear back on. I hate these it looks like I'm wearing pyjamas. After we got dressed Nate turned to me.

"OK you've got to see this; some of the symbols are the same as what were in that book so I was thinking maybe you could understand it."Nate walked along the shore until we were past the waterfall and then pointed to what appeared to me a crack in the wall. "This way." He said and dragged me to the crack. I would have doubted him but when he laid his hand on the rough grey rock it morphed from a simple crack into a round opening big enough to walk through. "Give us a little bit of light."

I clicked my fingers and a ball of fire appeared in my hands. I love playing around with this, I'll do clap next time or maybe a nose twitch see if I can do it Bewitched style. As we walked through the tunnel in the rock, the path seemed to slope upwards and the

walls flickered with the orange and red flames making it seem overly creepy as the shadows seemed to dance.

Thankfully not even a minute later we came out of the tunnel to the sound of rushing water. The light that immediately bombarded us filtered through the waterfall so that it glimmered across our faces. Nate took my hand in his and pulled me towards the other end of the water fall and pointed at the wall. I didn't register at first but then I made out words on the mossy stone. I read as I walked along but when I got halfway my brows furrowed and as I carried on I just shook my head.

"Ok well at that end, it's all ancient Antorian, in the middle it's a mix and at this end it's something else. From what I can gather this is in recognition of a meeting between the winged earth beings and the Antorians. One of the winged people was gifted with foresight and saw the coming of a great evil that would breach the barrier between all worlds and a daughter of both Antoria and the world of the winged folk would have to save them. How there can

be a daughter of both I don't know because it was forbidden to have relations between the two species. The part in the middle is like an agreement between the two thus the mixture of the languages and the other end is all the other people. It would be my guess their side say the same as this one but in their language. The great evil they talk about sounds similar to the one we just caged but it even talks of them escaping which is bad news." I said as my eyes once again roved over the words. "I wonder if these people still exist."

"I don't know but either way we need to find out and if they do still exist we need to warn them that the time of evil could be upon us." Nate said seriously. So much for rest and relaxation.

Chapter 35

Escape From Antoria Part 35

Chapter 34

Aurora POV

As I glanced down at the 10 year old playing sitting at the table I couldn't help but sigh. She was getting so big already because she ages the same way as humans which is probably a good thing for us because there is a time difference between our realm and the human realms. For every 10 years here only one shall pass in theirs; Pain in the ass when you decide to take a holiday.

Another few months in Antoria time and it will be time for Izzy to participate in the naming ceremony

where she will get her wings. I wonder if she can actually get wings? I couldn't help but sigh. They gave me a damn human as a charge and not even an ordinary human, they said i would learn something from this unique being but I haven't learnt anything other than I know nothing. I'm 180 years old way too young to be a parent and I'm stuck with a bloody kid. I seriously wish I hadn't tee peed the Elder's house because looking back on it, it seriously wasn't worth the hassle. Now I'm stuck with a kid and on probation for the next decade until Izzy officially becomes part of our society even though she's probably got more brains than all of the elders put together, stupid old coots. Can't wait for the Illumination Ceremony when new elders will be selected but that's not for another decade or two, so for now I will have to make do with these bloody idiots.

I walked over to one of the elder idiots again to pose my argument. See for as long as I've been the guardian of her, I have been fighting for them to listen to what she has to say, because although she

looks young, I can tell she has greater knowledge than I can ever possibly imagine.

"Roman." I said bowing my head and bending my knee so that I was literally bowing in front of him.

"What is it now Aurora?" He sighed with resignation. God these old people are just so damn rude, they think they know everything and are so stuck in their ways, thinking they know everything, well sorry to disappoint you father but you know nothing. Yes you heard me, Elder Roman is my father, not that he was ever a very good one.

"Roman I advice that you take heed of the foreigners words, i along with the others detect no lie in her words and if what she speaks is the truth, we could all be in grave danger. Yet time and time again you refuse to listen." I practically shouted at his losing an attempt at patience, it just doesn't get anywhere and the anger makes me feel better so why not use it. My father didn't even flinch he just sat there looking bored.

"I told you, she knows nothing she is a child."As he shifted in his chair wincing slightly as he stretched

his aged wings. Izzy being the intuitive one and sensing the argument came over and held onto my hand.

"You're sick." She said innocently looking up at my father though her adorable eyes which were now blue. It is the strangest thing, I have seen her eyes change colour a multitude of times, when though I can never work out what it means. The little girl whose hair was hanging loosely around her waist walked over to my father and climbed up on his lap without his permission. "You look like my grandpa, well before he died to save my mum. He was a good man. I was too late to save him, but you, I can save, you try to hide you illness behind old age but you are dying." She said tilting her head to the side. I watched as my father's eyes widened obviously startled, if it wasn't for the shock of what she said I would have laughed.

"Don't worry Elder Roman, this doesn't hurt, well it won't hurt you." She reached up her little tattooed hand and placed it on his cheek. I watched in awe as my father's skin lost its sickly pallor and once again

took on that bronzed hue that I hadn't seen for about 100 years. When Izzy hopped off of his lap she looked a little paler but she still had a huge grin on her face. "There all better now. Can we go and play now? I want to see Jay and Nicky." She said with a pout.

I smiled at her. "Of course we can." I turned back to my dad who still looked dazed. "Dad are you OK?" Forgetting to call him Elder Roman as concern overrode any grudge I held.

"Amazing, our healers said I was a lost cause and this little one makes it all go away with one touch, absolutely incredible."

"I told you she was special." With that I turned away from the old man and took her tattooed hand in mine and left the old coot to mull things over.

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Only a short par tbut I will try and do more soon. :D

Chapter 36

Escape From Antoria part 36

Ari's POV

I sat down in a large cushioned chair that was positioned at the head of a large table in the great hall trying to think of the next move. The demon had been getting more volatile over the months and then suddenly it was silent. No explosions no new outbreaks of plague, no nothing, I can only assume this is bad news but Nate and I have other things to worry about such as the 'winged people' I'd rather call them Avalian's since they live in Avalia or something; winged people makes us sound like we don't have two brain cells to rub together.

We had spent the next few weeks after that day at waterfall trying to find out anything we could but so far we had come up with nothing apart from a thick tome that now sat in front of me. I had spent the last few days since we had discovered it trying to translate it but again the text was a mixture of Antorian and Avalian. The only thing I could gather was the Avalians travelled through rainbows. Weird I know but these days you never know what to expect. We just have to figure a way to contact them, I'm guessing there is something in that waterfall place but it's too soon to tell.

I was startled from my seat when I spotted the floor starting to glow out of the corner of my eye and as my head turned i recognised the tell tale symbols of the portal scorching themselves into the ground. The portal suddenly glowed into existence and two familiar figures stepped out. Both wearing earthen winter clothing they quickly shrugged out of the snow covered ski jackets as the overbearing heat from the Antoria summer engulfed them.

I pushed myself away from the table and pulled them both into a hug. "I missed you guys so much. You couldn't visit more often?" Trying to give them a stern gaze but failing and giving them huge grins but when they didn't return anything other than a weary smile my own slipped off of my face. "What's happened?" I asked anxiously as I stepped back and studied their expressions. In 18 months, yes that long, how time flies when you're having fun, in that time Blake and Holly have changed. Holly's hair was now cropped short and her face looked hardened and the new muscle tone she was packing, all in all with the combat gear underneath she was now looking more like G.I. Jane rather than my baby sister and Blake...well he still looked the same except there was a glint in his eye every time his eyes flickered to Holly and a ghost of a smile passed across his lips. "OH my god!!!" I shrieked as realisation dawned on me. "You slept with my sister!!" I said looking between the two of them who were both blushing at being caught.

"Yes we did have...relations together but that is not the reason we came back." Blake answered looking at

Holly who suddenly looked grim. "We found the cage." He said tonelessly but I could detect something behind it.

"And...?" I asked. Please don't let it be open.

"Someone has let the demons out." Holly said with pain in her eyes. "The poor girl was traumatised. She's only 6 but the demons couldn't possess her for some reason so they scared the living crap out of her, won't be surprised if the poor kid is in therapy for a year." She said shaking her head in disgust.

"So they're out?" I whispered.

"Yeah and they're gaining power, apparently earth is a perfect place for them to refuel because it's full of war and murder. I don't know how long it will take them to establish their powers again but I can safely say that it won't take them too long to breach the space between realms." Blake said shaking his head, his eyes looking haunted.

"What about earth?" I asked but my eyes widened as I thought about the next question. "What about Ryan and the others?"

"Ryan and the other are safe, we opened a portal in Eastern Antoria, and they should be here in two days or so."Blake said. "As for earth, well, it literally will be hell on earth within a few months but until we find a way to deal with them permanently there is nothing we can do. However, we did find some allies on the other side, hunters of a sort so at least we've got some people battling them."

I just nodded numbly. "Well I think we have some clues on the earthen magic. As soon as Nate gets back we'll show you what we've found, but first I think you guys could use a nap." I said walking back to the table where I picked up the huge book and walked back over to the pair who looked absolutely exhausted. I gave them a small smile and walked out of the room, getting annoyed because of the dress which was really uncomfortable in this humidity. They followed along meekly as I expertly navigated the halls.

I led them to one of the spare bedrooms, not that there were many left with the current situation in

the kingdom, the castle now held over 100 refugees from the western regions, damned demon.

I came to one of the large bedrooms on the same corridor as mine and Nate's room. I swung open the door and gestured them inside the room. It was huge but not as big as my room but the decor and the contents were pretty much the same.

"Here we go, I'm afraid you're going to have to share a room if we have more guests coming, we've been housing as many we can but that demon has been causing havoc and then suddenly he stopped a few days ago but now I can guess why. " I said shaking my head. Holly ran in the room and flopped onto the bed where as Blake just dropped his stuff on the floor and then turned to me.

"Thanks Ari. I always said you would be a great queen." He said with a smile before pulling me into a hug.

"How do you know I'm a good queen? I feel like I've done nothing for these people." I said weakly.

"I know you're a good queen because you care. The old kind would have left the demons to exterminate the people; he wouldn't have cared who died but not you." He said giving me a pat on the shoulder. He then disappeared into a door on the opposite wall which if I remembered right was a bathroom.

Holly was already fast asleep on the bed so I pulled off her shoes and lifted her legs so that she was on the bed. I placed a kiss on her forehead and left the room. I never thought I'd be so glad to see Holly, I never realised how hard it would be without her until she was gone but even though she is back I can tell our troubles are just beginning.

Chapter 37

escape from antoria part 37

Chapter 35

Aurora POV

I watched as the beautiful young woman tried to fasten her ceremonial dress but without any luck. I chuckled as I brushed her long curly brown locks aside and tightened the lacing on the back of the stunning white dress that all females had to wear during the ceremony; the males all wear white tunics with white pants. Seems stupid to most however its part of the ritual and has been for as long as our people can remember so there was no changing it. Most of our kind didn't go through this until their

180th year but our bodies' age slower than humans or Antorians so now Izzy the gorgeous girl in front of me resembled a 180 year old Avalian when in fact she was only 18. Quite odd considering the men were looking upon her as potential mates when they had seen her grow from child to woman in the space of time it took them to barely grow stubble on their chin.

"Come on now Izzy, this is one of the most important rites of passage here, it's when you will truly become Avalian." I said wrapping an arm around her shoulders. Although I've never told her, Izzy has become everything to me, a daughter, a sister, a friend. When I saved her from that ghastly being that day, I never would have dreamed how attached I would become.

"Fine Aurora, you get so antsy some times." She huffed in her voice which sounded like smooth honey; it was thick and sweet and rolled of her tongue like each word was being caressed. I grasped her hand in mine and pulled her out of my home which was made from all natural materials. Yes I was

more of an earthen being than the rest and in proof, my wings are green like the leaves of the forest or the jade green grass that bends in the morning breeze, just the thoughts of those natural and earthen things is enough to make me sigh in contentment.

We walked down a narrow path and followed the crowds that were slowly moving towards the portal to Rayon, the home of the enchanted waters where all of our ceremonial rights are performed. I watched as the crowds slowly dissolved into the rainbow up ahead and when it was our turn to step into it I tilted my head back and tried to suppress the light hearted giggles that stirred within me. Seconds later we emerged in front of a huge waterfall with a sizable pool in front of it, this is where the ceremony takes place this is where Izzy will get her true Avalian name and become one of us.

Everyone gathered around the base of the pool, I gently pulled Izzy to where my father was stood ready to begin the celebrations. There were 5 others in white, 2 girls and 3 boys. Usually there are more but it was a slow year.

I went and rejoined the main crowed and watched in awe as my father walked across the water, that trick never goes old especially as his delicate footsteps barely made a ripple on the water where as the hand he was holding belonged to one of the girls, and her foot step s made it look as though someone had dropped a rather large rock every time her foot made contact with the water. The girl looked terrified and yet serene at the same time, if I had to guess I would say she would be water she's got the serenity of earth but not the life for it. My father dropped her hand once they were standing in the middle of the pool and raised his arms above his head. Immediately the whole crowd began humming the melody that worked perfectly with the lilting baritones of my father's voice as he spoke the words for ceremony. I watched as my father's eyes closed and the girl was briefly engulfed by a rainbow of colours and vanished before our very eyes. Seconds later the colours disappeared and the girl was once again in view. The girls once golden blonde hair was now streaked with blue and her beautiful white dress had transformed into a blue knee length dress that

seemed to moving like waves lapping at the shore but what was the biggest change were the two blue wings now protruding from her back. They were beautiful though I must say Marcella; the leader of the water Avalians, had wings that were at least twice as beautiful. My father grasped her hand and raised it above her head.

"I present to you Aquaria" My father's voice boomed receiving several woops and cheers from the audience.

Ari's POV

Nate, myself, Holly and Blake manoeuvred our way through the dark tunnels towards the white stone mural that held the doorway to the waterfall. I glanced over my shoulder at Blake and Holly who were looking a bit confused before they gasped. I turned back in time to see the small archway form in front of us. Nate grasped my hand and I quickly grabbed Blake's who was holding onto Holly's before Nate gently tugged us through the archway.

When we got through to the other side I was immediately enchanted, even more so by the

melodies that were echoing in the air. I turned towards the sound and saw a group of... winged people Oh my god. I patted Nate on the shoulder but he was busy talking with Holly and Blake. "Nate, look it's the ...the winged people the Avalians." I hissed at him causing him to spin around and gasp as a loud booming voice came from a man standing in the middle of the pool.

"I present to Leonardo" He voice boomed as he held the arm of a boy who looked about 18 in the air. He blushed and his yellows wings fluttered behind him. I tilted my head to the side and watched as the boy walked across the water and a girl with brown locks that reached her waist and had a familiar marking on her hand moved the centre of the pool. Is it me of does that girl look like me? I shook it off at the hum echoed through the air and the man started chanting something. I heard a gasp from behind me as Blake clutched his head but had his eyes fixated on the events behind me.

"No it couldn't be." He said incredulously at the same point the girl became engulfed in a rainbow and the

humming lulled meaning every winged persons head snapped round to us. Umm oops.

I heard someone's shouts and protests from the crowd. "Father something is wrong with Izzy she should have been out by now." A panicked woman's voice echoed across the clearing but at that moment the rainbow disappeared and standing in the place of the familiar girl was a winged person, an Avalian. Her brown hair was interwoven with the colours of the rainbow with the occasion silver streak, her white dress had vanished and had been replaced by a dress that looked like it had been made out of hundreds of leaves sown together to create a corset type bodice and then attached to a knee length skirt. The whole outfit looked as though it had been tie dyed using every colour of the rainbow except for the lace detailing that was silver but the most incredible part of the change was the wings. My god they were beautiful. They were different to every set of wings I could see before me. There were a rainbow of colours painted across the translucent surface but just like her clothes and hair, they were outlined by

silver. It was as thought the veins in her paper thin wings had been painted with silver.

"Oh my god, it's beautiful." I whispered louder than I thought as every head in the place snapped up to me including the girls whose face automatically changed to one of awe to one of recognition. Undeterred by the silence of the audience, a man grabbed the girls hand and raised it whilst closed his eyes.

"I present to you Cahira!!!" He voice bellowed causing the whole place to erupt in cheers. Instead of walking out of the pool the same way the boy, Leonardo was it? The girl whose name I'm guessing is Cahira walked directly towards our group across the water her footsteps not even causing a ripple.

As she stepped onto the land she grabbed the hand of some girl with green wings who I have to say was equally as beautiful and after murmuring a few words in her ear dragged her over to us. I took a few steps back as she came towards us, suddenly afraid of these unknown people however Nate took my hand and gave me a reassuring squeeze. As the girls came to a stop before us the gaze of every winged

person came upon us and I almost laughed at the shocked expression on their faces as they looked at us noticing the lack of wings and of course Nate and I who looked as if we had gone a little too crazy with a permanent marker.

Cahira stepped forward shyly. "Hello mother."

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Chapter 38

Escape From Antoria Part 38

Part 3 enjoy (sorry it took so long)

"Hello mother" She said looking in my direction. I gasped was she talking to me? I looked behind me to make sure. Nope no one there except Holly but I'm pretty sure she didn't mean Holly.

"Me?" I asked incredulously pointing at myself as if to iterate the point.

She smiled. "Surely you recognise your daughter."She raised her arm to show me the markings and I gasped.

"My little Izzy?" I asked trying to hold back the tears. It can't really be happening can it?

"Yes Momma!" She said.

I turned to Nate. "Pinch me, i need to know it's real." He complied with which I yelped. I was irritated for a moment, I didn't actually think the dumbass would do it but then my eyes widened in realisation, this was undoubtedly real. A big grin appeared on my face and I jumped into Nate's open arms and planted a kiss on his lips ignoring the gasps as he spun me around. I heard a few yelps and laughed at the images of people touching the bubble that never ceased to amaze me and then jumping back as it scorched their skin. I heard someone giggle and as I opened my eyes I saw the woman, Izzy, my beautiful daughter running her hand in the bubble before jumping inside it with a triumphant grin. It really is her!!! Only Izzy was ever able to join us inside of our little bubble. I let go of Nate abruptly and watched as the rainbow bubble began to fade before practically jumping on the poor girl.

"Oh my god my little girl is all grown up!!" I cried as a few tears began to run down my cheeks.

"Actually...how the hell are you practically the same age as me...no don't tell me...I was pregnant with you for less than a week so I can only guess that some other magic is at play." I said as I released her.

"Calm down mum, there's someone I'd like you to meet." Izzy said gesturing for the green winged woman behind her. The woman hesitantly stepped forward she looked about the same age as me but in my opinion was a hundred times more beautiful, like it was natural, earthy. "Mum this is Aurora; she's the one who raised me." I arched my eyebrow. You've got to be kidding me!

"But how can she have raised you, she's the same age as you right?" I asked desperate for there once to be a normal answer.

"No she's 200 years old but in Antoria or earth years that's like ...20" Izzy said whilst tapping her chin. I can't believe it...this is also strange but then I spotted the rainbow that was in the clearing on the other side of the waterfall and realised there were some

things that just can't be explained. Heck look at myself I'm a walking example if you think about it in earth terms...I'm just not meant to exist.

"OK, and to sound like a cheesy earth film...'take me to your leader'...yeah we have some grave matters to discuss heck we just came to look at the waterfall to try and figure out how to contact you guys and for once it must be our lucky day." I said with a smile.

"Oh no problem...DAD!!!" the green woman...Aurora I think she said her name was...shouted out over the crowd.

A few seconds later the old man who had been standing in the middle of the pool pushed his way through the crowd and came to stop in front of us. From looking into his eyes he looked about 70 maybe 80...but his eyes they tell a different story.

"You are older than you look. You appear about 70 but from your eyes I'd guess it's more like ...700" I said in a kind of dazed tone not breaking eye contact with the old man.

"You're close; I'm 784 years young well the last time I counted anyway. Now daughter what complaints do you have this time?" He asked tiredly as he looked over at Aurora.

"I'm not here to complain, it's just these Antorians wanted to speak to an Elder so i called for the first Elder I thought of...Jeez can't get a break around here." She huffed throwing her hands up in the air. I felt rather than saw the change in earthen energy.

"You have the affinity for the earth...it's strong...very strong" I muttered as I closed my eyes and revelled in the pulsing magic with a smile on my face. I could feel my own magic joining with it, trying to sooth its restlessness.

"Yes, as do you." I could hear the smile in her voice but it also seemed a bit shocked.

I nodded before opening my eyes. "Yeah, it comes with the body art." I said with a smile. I stood back into Nate's arms and subconsciously raised my hand to trace the markings on his face. Somehow it always seemed to sooth me. I once traced nearly his entire torso and the sight of it all glowing was just amazing.

I shook myself from those thoughts before I went into more...dangerous territory.

"There is urgent matters we must discuss that involves your people as well as ours." Nate spoke up in a very grave tone of voice, as if in those few worlds you could sense the wait on the world on his shoulders and I suppose he does in a sense, he has the lives of every citizen of Antoria depending on him. "The demons are out and the darkness is coming." He said. I watched as the old man's eyes widened and then he looked at Izzy and smiled in understanding.

"It seems there was a reason for you being with us after all." He said with a smile. "firstly you excelled in martial arts and magical studies and now the final part...your transformation." He said looking her over as if analysing every detail of her. "Firstly your Avalian name means Warrior. Secondly your wings...never has there been anyone with wings like yours well at least not for a thousand years, the silver alone in them is a rare trait and is only given to someone who is meant to do something remarkable.

By having every colour I can only assume that the fate of Avalia rests on the shoulders of you Princess Isadora 'Cahira' of Antoria and champion of Avalia." He said with a wide smile.

Izzy the poor girl looked like she was going to pass out. Heck even I felt a bit overwhelmed. But then it clicked. One who was of both Avalia and Antoria, it's what was foretold. "It's your destiny, even I have read it." I said in a quiet voice. I don't want my daughter to be harmed but in this case there is nothing I can do...except helping her. "But do not worry Izzy; I'll be right here to fight beside you." I said reaching out and taking the suddenly pasty face in my hands and planting a kiss on her forehead.

"Thanks mum." She said quietly.

"I'll be there to help too." Nate said pulling Izzy into a hug. "you are as much my little girl...well not so little but that's beside the point, you are my little girl and I will be here to help if you need me." He released her from the hug and then took a step back. "I have to back to Antoria we have people arriving soon." He said taking hold of my hand.

I started panicking, what if I don't see her again!! I dropped Nate's hand and rushed forwards and took he hand in mine. "I have to go back too. Make sure you let us know before you go off to save the world OK?"

I said all motherly. "I'm soo glad you're OK, I just wish I could have seen you grow up." I said sadly pulling away from her.

"It's OK mum, don't cry." Izzy said softly as she reached up and brushed away tears I hadn't even noticed I was crying. "I'll see you soon."

Once she pulled away I practically threw myself on a startled Aurora. "Thank you for looking after my little girl. Make sure she stays safe." I said before pulling away. "Right Hols, get you're hugs and stuff in before we leave." I said not really paying that much attention to what was going on anymore.

Nate walked over to that old guy, what the hell was his name anyways? "Elder Roman, I have to get back to my people but I would like to talk to you and the rest of the elders soon so that we can make plans for

our future. Would that be acceptable to you?" He asked.

"Yes how about in 10 days time so you have time to prepare you kingdom for you absence." He said reaching out his hand to Nate who grasped his hand and they shook on it." I couldn't help but sigh as I watched Izzy and all the Avalians who walked over the rainbow before disappearing into the beautiful colours stretching across the sky. Just before she was engulfed by it, Izzy turned to me and waved.

"See you soon mum." She called back over her shoulder and followed the strangers into the rainbow. It seemed to grow brighter for a second before it slowly shimmered out of existence. I sighed.

"Come on, we have guests." And with that we went to the portal back to our own home.

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Chapter 39

Escape From Antoria Part 39

Chapter 36

Guests were an understatement. Ryan and co had come with a small army. There were and even i can't believe I'm saying it, there were werewolves, fairies, a fallen angel, 2 mermaids (though they had legs, frankly I think they're faking), and a couple more humans with magic. Apparently they all want to help; I think they all just want to bail a sinking ship. Apparently there had been a ridiculous amount of 'natural disasters' earth side.

I wanted to know exactly how they could help but that was answered when the mermaids started

playing around with the water in some huge fountain which to be honest I never knew existed until five minutes ago. Oh that's right, that's because it didn't exist. They literally created the water; someone had to hastily create a bloody stone bowl the size of my bedroom to keep the damn stuff in. It was fascinating though to watch them playing with the water, they said their third sister will be along soon she was just having fun enchanting some travellers with her voice. Yeah as you can imagine my eyebrows were well and truly disappearing at this point. Sounds more like a bloody siren than a mermaid to me but Aqua assured me that there is a big difference. They charm men for pleasure and of course to get pregnant where as sirens charm men to their deaths. I just hope number 3 doesn't come back knocked up; it would solve anything for anyone.

Nate had gone, who knows where to make battle plans with the other sorcerers. That meant I was stuck with giving rooms to everyone. I think the mermaids will appreciate the room with the huge en-suite bathroom, it more like a mini pool than a bath and it's also got doors that lead on to the pool which

get's water, get this from the waterfall in that in between world. No idea how the builder managed that but apparently that's why it is rumoured to have healing qualities or something. I only learnt that part when I got a bit battered after a training session with one of the soldiers. Yeah I looked like i was a score card with the amount of scratches that lined my body and Nate being the overprotective husband that he is insisted I get in the water. It actually worked though because I was well and truly healed by the next day.

As you can tell my mind was just rambling through unnecessary facts in an attempt to keep me occupied, I know if I pause for more than 10 seconds I will start panicking and let me tell you that isn't a pretty sight. Let's just say last time I started a mini hurricane in the throne room. No idea how because weather is Holly's thing but I suppose it is just air and there were other elements involved in that little hurricane as the floor was a little scorched afterwards.

Nine days left until I see her again. I can't believe how grown up she is. She's 18 and look at me I'm only 20. Does anyone else feel weird about this? And

my god my little girl was beautiful, like Goddess beautiful. I know for certain she doesn't get that from me. She was a gift from the Gods so I'm guessing that's the reasoning behind it but if I'm honest, I've got a feeling that Izzy or Cahira as the Avalians named her, will be the one to save us all. I don't know how I know this I just do.

"HELLO!!! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!!! HELLO WHERE IS THE KING? OR THE QUEEN? I NEED TO TALK TO THEM NOW IT'S AN EMERGANCY!!!" Some voice was shouting, getting louder as it got closer to me. I rushed towards the sound of the voice to come across a girl who looked about 18 but from fire engine red wings on her back it was obvious that it was more like 180.

"Hey, what's wrong?" I asked her, grabbing her by the arms to stop her progress. Her skin was burning hot and the floor was smouldering beneath her but to me it felt strangely comforting even if I could feel the erratic emotions behind it.

"Are you the Queen?" She managed to get out between breaths.

"Yes I'm the queen, you said it was an emergency? What's going on?" I asked giving her a slight shake to draw her out of the panic that seemed to be radiating off her is waves of heat. She closed her eyes in an attempt to calm herself but it didn't seem to be working. "OK I need you to take deep breaths for me OK?" She nodded and tried to calm her breathing for a few more seconds before she gave up.

"Thedemonsarecoming." She blurted out as she hopped from foot to foot. Her wings fluttering due to her anxiety so that she would have any bound to each hop.

"Say that again but slower." I said.

"The demons are coming."She said with terror in her eyes. "Rayon and I had duty in the middle ground when the crack started to come through the sky. Rayon shouted that his dream was right, the middle ground is where the battle will begin and then he ran off to tell the elders and I came to tell you guys. We need to get back there before they come through." I stopped for a second and gazed around me. Everyone who had been milling around the castle had stopped

whatever they were doing and were now gazing upon us with a mixture of fear, curiosity and shock. I suppose for some this is the first time they've ever seen a person with wings.

"OK, don't worry." I gathered air around me. "CODE RED." I bellowed the air carrying my voice throughout the castle on a sharp wind.

Oh yeah a cool trick I learned from some book, pretty handy if I say so myself.

I turned to the winged girl who was now looking at me with I don't know what it was awe curiosity, fear who knows, and I don't have time to figure it out. "Stay here, I need to get my armour on." She nodded so I ran off to the side of the room where I had kept my armour in case. I slipped it over top of my lightweight dress. I didn't have all the big armour that the boys did just metal plates that had been enchanted to deflect metal attacks apparently and of course gives me a bit of protection from physical attacks. I hastily tied my curled hair into a bun and then stuck two sharp pieces of metal through it once I had secured it in place with a leather tie. I

exchanged my flat pumps for leather boots and then grabbing the sword I tore of the bottom half of my dress and pulled the leather warrior type skirt over top of it. There.

I rushed back over to the red winged girl just as Nate rushed in the room in full battle armour followed by hundreds of sorcerers and villagers from the surrounding towns. Every able bodied man had signed up to help, even if they didn't fully understand what they were getting into, they were happy to risk their lives in the hope that their families might be safe.

As soon as Nate reached me he grasped my hand and squeezed it tightly. I felt myself get a few pats on the back and turned to see the sorcerers that I had travelled with before the last battle, I never thought I'd be so glad to see some of these faces though I wish it was under different circumstances.

Nate took the lead and we all walked in procession behind him, the winged girl walking alongside me. I took her hand and gave it a squeeze in an attempt to get the panicked expression off of her face.

"You've got to have a bit more faith in your people and my people. If you think we're already defeated then it will make it easier for you

to be defeated...if that makes sense." I said screwing my brows as I tried to figure out if it actually made any sense.

"Ari, don't strain yourself you might cause some damage." I heard Ryan playfully call over my shoulder.

"Oh don't you worry that is nothing compared to trying to figure out how it is possible that your daughter is suddenly 18 years of age and you only gave birth 2 years ago." I said shaking my head.

"Whoa, you mean you found her?" He called out.

"Yup, you'll see her soon, it's hard to miss her, my little girl is a right stunner." I said with pride though I couldn't help the ache in my chest at the thought of missing her entire childhood, her first step, her first words, her first everything, I wonder if she has had her first kiss yet.

"Hey...."I said to the girl next to me, making me realise I still don't know her name.

"Cleo." She answered. Hmm, not as fiery as I thought but then again there are only so many fire names that they can come up with.

"Cleo right. Does Izzy have a boyfriend or anything? Has she had her first kiss yet? Has she-?" I rambled only to be cut off.

"No she hasn't, it's weird it's like she knows something, like she's waiting for something but I don't know what it is." Cleo said shaking her head. "It would be a little weird anyways because all the guys in our world have seen her running round naked when she was two years old and seen her as an awkward looking teenager before growing into who she is now in the time it took for them to age what in the equivalent is two earth years."

Hmm I wonder what Izzy is waiting for? I didn't get much time to ponder the question as we now stood in front of the portal to what was it Cleo called it...middle ground? The right name for it really.

I heard a few gasps from the non magical people as they saw the white mural transform before their eyes and then Nate disappearing through the apparently solid stone. I grasped Cleo's hand and tugged her towards the gateway trying to prepare myself for what would lay on the other side but what I saw nothing could prepare me for.

Katherine Pocock©

Chapter 40

Escape From Antoria Part 40

Part 40

There crowded together on the other bank of the water pool were at least two thousand people but that wasn't what shocked me. It was cruel intensity of their eyes, which didn't frighten me in the adults as much as the children whose faces should be filled with innocence and joy but instead were filled with deadly hate and murderous desires. Some of them were even on a leash of some sort as they were straining against some unknown force but were literally frothing at the mouth as they strained to get at us. They looked like rabid animals.

I rushed towards Nate and grabbed his hand, pulling him close to my body before pulling him to the waterfall away from the possessed people and closer to the rainbow that had just descended on top of the waterfall so that hundreds of winged people wearing some weird kind of battle armour appeared out of the beautiful lights.

I immediately spotted my daughter amongst them but as she descended the hill and joined us I noticed a lot of other young looking faces. She held tightly onto Aurora's hand giving it a squeeze before walking over to me. She gave me a hug. "Hey mum." She said before pulling away. I couldn't help beam with pride at the sight of my daughter. She was amazing; I just hope we all make it out of this alive so I can spend some time getting to know her.

"Oh hey Ryan." Izzy called over my shoulder. I turned my head, ignoring the savage beasts not even 20 metres away and laughed at his shocked expression.

"Umm...hey?" He said unsure of who he was talking to. I bit my lip to keep from laughing. You could have so much fun with this.

"What you don't recognise me? I have aged like 19 years and I do have wings but I'd thought this would at least help you recognise me." Izzy said with impish delight. I've got a feeling that my daughter might be a bit of a trouble maker.

I looked over my shoulder at Ryan and the other sorcerers who had been there when Izzy was born and every one of them stood gaping as their eyes transfixed upon her marked hand.

"Izzy" was whispered on many of their lips.

"The one and only." She said in a bright cheery voice which I know she didn't inherit from me, I am never that cheery.

I was about to ask her something when the Elder we had seen yesterday, Elder Roman I think, waltzed into the group. "I know this is a big reunion and all but we have an enemy to defeat." He said in a stern tone of a leader before glancing over his shoulder at the slavering beasts. "They have not completely broken through the divide between worlds and they were unable to locate the gateways that are used by our people thus they have forcibly broken through

the middle ground. It won't take long so you must prepare yourselves."

I looked over to where the slavering beasts were straining against some unknown force. That is what he must mean, as soon as they break through the battle will begin. I also noticed that even though they appeared to be snarling there was not a sound echoing from them.

"OK everyone, get into positions." I barked out in a military style order. The sorcerers and villagers startled to attention at my voice and began taking up positions along the bank of the pool.

For about 10 minutes we all stood there with determined expressions plastered on our faces not allowing a single thread of fear to intrude as we waited for the moment of battle to arrive. The snarling from the demons seemed to become more ferocious and primal as time went on and slowly as battle loomed and the barrier between earth and the middle ground thinned, the sound of their snarls echoed faintly between the worlds to reach my ears.

I reached across the space between Nate and me and I grasped his hand, in fear, reassurance and most importantly to feel his love.

One simple touch gave me the resolve to push away any lingering fear and set within me a passionate will to defeat these demons or go out fighting. I know looking at all of the determined faces around me that we would lose many people today but we were fighting not only for ourselves but for the survival of all the worlds from the demons infecting them with malice, destruction and fear.

The only sound that signalled the breach in the middle grounds barrier was a faint pop. I don't know why but I was expecting something louder but no it was merely a pop before all hell broke loose.

Chapter 41

Escape From Antoria part 41

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part 41 enjoy !

Chapter 37

At that pop both armies charged forward. The snarling possessed humans crawled as if they were four legged beasts rather that animals, mouths foaming as if they had some type of rabies. The ones who were obviously upper level demons managed to have some kind of control but you could see that they were struggling to control their own demonic savagery. I ran forward with the rest of the sorcerers to create a magical defensive line. The town's people without magic stood behind us with all sorts of

weaponry waiting for the right time. The archers were waiting for the words. I counted as the crawling savages got closer and closer.

"NOW!!!" I shrieked causing hundreds of arrows to be released and embed themselves in the slavery targets. They didn't stop however, well the ones who got an arrow to the head did but the rest just carried on straight towards us. They were barely even 10 feet from our front line so I braced myself for the attack but they suddenly stopped. The slavering beasts eyes began to glow and they all stood on their feet in unison with their arms outstretched. I could feel the pull of the dark energy as they gathered it.

"Every one, brace yourselves!!!" Nate cried out as a black and red ball of energy gathered in front of the demonic army. I hastily created a shield out of the element but I don't know if it will hold, we've never gone up against this many all together.

I felt the other sorcerers strengthening the shield with their magic but I could feel it draining me already, a shield this size is too hard to keep up for too long. I watched in horror as the size of the dark

energy expanded until it was about the same size as the shield I held before us, the grass underneath it withering and dying which in itself seemed to drain part of my powers even though it was only a small drain.

The demons released the energy which sped towards us, black sparks spitting out of the ball as it hurtled into our energy shield. I felt the contamination as soon as it hit. Like a disease or like something had polluted the good clean energy of the shield. I watched in horror as the shield faltered under the intense attack the blue glow of it becoming tainted a murky grew as the demons magic mixed with ours. I concentrated harder putting more energy into the shield, a single bead of sweat rolling down the side of my face as I strained against the dark magic. I watched as the shield grew brighter the blue infusing the shield once more and with a flash the demon energy was consumed. I felt the ground beneath shake at just the sheer force of it.

I could hear Nate shouting orders at the archers, something to do with aiming for their heads but I

couldn't focus on their words as the demons began a deadly assault of rapid bolts of dark energy. It was so foul and wrong that I could actually taste it on my tongue. To be honest it was making me queasy. I was so distracted by the rapid strikes of dark energy that I didn't notice a flank of 50 or so demons, armed with swords and guns. The gunshots rang out around me and I heard groaning and cries of pains before there was a soft thus to echo each gunshot.

Ah crap looks like I'm going to have to make the shield more of a physical thing. But how am I going to do that? If I make it solid we won't be able to see unless....Ice....but how the hell do we get or attacks out? I didn't get time to figure it out because the first sword armed demon leapt at us in the front row. I quickly touched my hand to the ground and was rewarded with a thud as the demons human host collided with the rock shield I had created in front of me. Each sorcerer was now concentrated on one on one combat with a demon.

The townspeople's archers were still attacking fruitlessly at the advancing army. I could see Izzy out

of the corner of my eye moving through the demonic army as if they were simply blades of grass. Her precision movements with her blade making her deadlier than most of the people here but it wasn't enough for the hoards of the demons because for every time we cut a body down the demonic spirit would exit the host and hang around in the atmosphere draining us of our powers and adding to the strength of the remaining demons.

"Holly, Nate, we need to cage the demons once they escape the bodies, let's put them in individual cages, they can't open them anyway, it has to be one of us, right?" I shouted over the clang. They both nodded and hastened into position, Nate on my right and Holly on my left so that we formed a mini circle. On instinct we all raised our arms and drew on our powers and as our fingertips brushed a blinding light formed around us. "EARTH, AIR, FIRE, WATER." I shouted and could see, smell and feel the elements moving to the centre of us, creating a pulsating ball of energy, with so many colours.

I could see Nate's concentration as he focused his power into it, I don't even know what his power is, but I think it's part of everything, like it's a part of the elements, like Holly's power is too except hers is weather instead of the raw forms that I control but Nate's power is the important one, it's the glue, the spirit that binds us, that's why he can read minds, he's not literally reading minds, he's reading spirits. Sure do make a good time for revelations.

"LIGHTNING!!!" Holly cried. A huge flash shot into the centre of our circle, making the glowing ball of energy crackle with yellow sparks. Slowly we brought our hands forwards so that our palms were touching the raw energy. It's felt like hundreds of pins and needles darting across my skin, the energy was warming and reassuring, it felt like home but it also had a massive spark to it. We all stood there and looked in each other's eyes. It's weird, all the things we are doing are instinctual, we never have a plan but at moments like this we are all so attuned to each other that we don't have to.

Simultaneously we pulled back our right arms so that one arm was still touching the raw power, some reason I know that if we did this separately one of us would draw too much power, with deadly consequences. I looked up and caught both of their eyes before we all took a step back and the power split into three. I felt my body absorb some of it and I'm pretty sure that my tattoos were glowing as I could see Nate's and Holly's glowing even though Holly only had the one on her shoulder, the fluorescent yellow was clearly visible through her clothing.

We all turned towards the demons, several of whom startled back at the sight of us whilst some began their attack on us in earnest. The other sorcerers created shields around us to deflect the demons attacks. I watched at the shields faltered but held.

"All archers make aim." I called out but damn there was something wrong with my voice, it sounded, odd, kind of magnified. I waited until all of the demons clustered together and moved forwards to attack. "And...FIRE!!!" I bellowed. The arrows soared

overhead and struck their targets, dozens of them dropping to the ground. "Drop the shields!!!" I called. As soon as they were down Nate, Holly and I released the energy we were holding by thrusting our right arms forwards so that our right palms were level with our left palms, causing the energy to shoot forwards and capture the demonic essences as soon as they left their bodies, though this time instead of caging it, there were huge cracks like thunder, or two boulders colliding and our energy balls consumed the murky blackness from the air.

We heard several villagers cheering behind us and I too let out a breath of relief but that was before the tear between the worlds widened to reveal the true size of the demonic army and all I can say is we were well and truly out numbered. There weren't just hundreds of the possessed there were thousands, quite possibly hundreds of thousands. I know I have power but I don't think I have that much power.

"Nate!!" I called in a distressed voice. He just finished decapitating a possessed teenager, which made my heart ache at the idea of an innocent person being

killed but there was nothing I can do about it now. Nate spun around on his heel thinking I was in trouble only to come face to face with another demon who didn't hesitate and lunged for Nate, his flaming sword, which he certainly didn;t have moments before skewered his leg before vanishing. I watched in horror as he stumbled to the floor and 4 or 5 demons started to gang up on him. He was using his abilities to hold them back but they were stronger and were fighting through it. One more foot and they will be able to deliver the killing blow. I couldn't take it.

With a scream that was so desperate and primal, I called upon all of my strength and power so that I had a huge glowing orb of raw power, it was nearly too much to contain but I stayed strong. I saw Nate's powers fail and the blood thirsty demons lunged. "NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!" I screamed throwing the energy at them. The sound reverberated in the air around us and made everyone around me momentarily freeze which was enough time for my energy ball to hit the demons and be completely obliterated. As soon as that

happened it was like someone took the pause off and the battle continued.

I stumbled my way to Nate feeling incredibly weakened, I was so drained that I could barely see straight. I got to his side panting. He had a grim smile on his face as he took me in his arms and we clutched on to each other for dear life.

"Love, I think this might be our end." He whispered into my ear but obviously someone was listening.

"No, it's not." Izzy said from shockingly close behind us. You two do you kissing thing, it creates that shield, and I'll take care of the rest." She said in an extremely confidant tone. I looked up at her in horror. "Make sure you expand the weird bubble over everyone else on our side, I know you can do it." With that she barged out of the front line and into what was now a kind of no man's land between the demons and our allies because we had just decimated their foot soldiers.

I looked at Nate is sheer panic.

"Just do as she says love, you have to trust her." He said in a pained voice. I nodded before looking into his eyes. Now when we kiss you must think of sheltering all of those on our side, hopefully it will let them into the bubble I heard Nate speak into my head just before our lips met. I felt it more than anything, I was drained but the elements knew what we were fighting for and added more strength to the swirling bubble around us which stretched until it covered everyone except for Izzy. I sure hope she knows what she is doing.

Izzy's POV

I watched in awe as my real mum and dad as well as my Aunt Holly drew their powers too them. Even though I was still swinging my blade at the demonic hoards my attention was always on them, and they truly were a sight to behold. Yes I have wings but that's normal to me but them, they look like gods incarnated, the all had an eerily powerful glow about them. They all stepped back splitting the glowing orb into three and I swear it's like someone turned a light on in all of them. All of them were literally glowing.

They skins were glowing where they were marked but it was also like there was a glowing aura around each of them. Holly was like the sunshine as her marks burned a bright yellow. Mums beauty seemed to be magnified by her glowing blue markings and her stunning cerulean blue aura. And dad...well, he looked like he was on fire...literally. His skin was burning a brilliant red that radiated from him and his aura seemed to pulsate and flicker like a real fire. All I can say is wow.

In a kind of unspoken command they all released their orbs of energy at the demons after their human hosts had been destroyed and now laid limply on the floor as the black demonic essence escaped from every orifice. As the energy ball came in contact with the demonic essence it made a cracking sound rumble throughout the area before the light consumed the murky essences. I let a short breath of relief as i cut down the last of the demons within reach, their essences being sucked towards the lingering fizzles on energy in the air.

There was cheering coming from behind me and would have too if it wasn't for the painstaking cry behind me. I whirled round to see my mum launch everything she had at the demons circling my dad. Ah shit. The demons were decimated but I could see that two of our best weapons were too weak to fight. I know they're connected so that last attacked pretty much did them both in. I didn't even realise i had walked forward until I was standing right beside them. The earth suddenly seemed to shake.

I turned around only to see that the demonic army had increased a hundred times over. Ah shit. I saw dad lean towards mum to whisper in her ear.

"Love I think this might be our end." He said in such a solemn tone but then I remember what Elder Roman said in this very same spot a few days earlier, I am the one who has to save everyone...but how. Ahh who cares, I'll just wing it.

"No, it's not." I said to them in a voice that was a lot more confident than what I was feeling at that point. And ooh I just thought of something. "You two do you kissing thing, it creates that shield, and I'll take care

of the rest."I said taking a step away from them before calling over my shoulder. "Make sure you expand the weird bubble over everyone else on our side, I know you can do it."

I raced forward into the expanse between the new front lines. I saw a huge bubble form behind me and couldn't help but smile. It was sweet to think that a kiss will save all of those people. My head snapped back and every demon formed a dark energy ball before throwing them at me...ok really didn't think this through...what would Isis do...ah crap I hate all that self sacrificing stuff.

I rushed forward towards the demonic attacks, screaming an ancient war cry that was so primal that it sounded nothing like my normal voice. I threw out everything I had, I put my very spirit into the attack. If I wasn't so encompassed in what I was doing I probably would have been awed by the rainbow lined with silver that burst from my body...it was incredible to say the least. I stretched it out so that it covered the entire demonic army and then I don't know how I knew to do it, I told my own essence to

pluck out the demonic essences in each of the people and then consume it.

One by one the people dropped to the floor but there was something wrong, my own spirit, my soul wasn't coming back to me once it finished attacking, it was like it was spent...that by attacking the demon I was destroying myself....ahh well this is self sacrifice so what did I expect, I have to do this for my people, the Avalians and the Antorians.

As the last demon dropped my essence seemed to pull back in, like when there's going to be an explosion and it sucks it back in and I know what's going to happen next but it's the only way. I looked over my shoulder at the people I cared about who were huddled together with smiles on their faces as the last demon dropped. They must have seen the look on my face because their smiles quickly dropped. "I'm sorry..." I said in barely more than a whisper but it the still silence, I may as well have shouted it. Now is the time to get rid of the rest of the demons lurking in the shadows of our worlds.

With a huge cry I threw out my arms and the rainbow that had been pulsating around me flew out like a huge explosion, filtering into every world in existence taking the hellish beings down with them if they didn't return to their own world. I lowered my hands and turned as the last of my spirit barely clung I smiled up at my family, Aurora, Roman, Jay, Nicky, the Avalians, my parents who I hadn't even gotten to know and then of course Ryan and the sorcerers.

My mum and dad split apart and their shield wavered before disappearing before they leapt up and started hurtling towards me but they were two late...it's already happening. I looked up at my wings which still looked like a rainbow but were slowly becoming more solid, harder, and more stone.

"Stay back" I cried my voice sounding gravelly as tears leaked from my eyes. I gave them a small smile as the last of my spirit left me and with a great cry I tilted my head back and my whole body hardened it rainbow marble. I stopped breathing and as my eyes slowly crystallised and the images went black, I caught one final look at the world around me before

death took me and all I saw was the heartbreaking image of those I love weeping on the floor at my feet.

Chapter 42

Escape From Antoria Part 42

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part 42 the final part :D

Epilogue - Twenty Antorian Years Later

Skye POV

Avalians and Antorians alike gathered for the ceremony in front of the statue of Princess Isadora 'Cahira' Of Antoria, saviour of the worlds. It had become a tradition to honour the saviour every year. This was my first year of actually attending the ceremony because those in the academy of Sorcerers were only allowed to attend once they had entered their final year; mostly the ceremony was kept to the royal family and the people who had been there on

that fateful day and those who were privileged to gain an invitation. I marvelled at the sight of the Avalians, yes there was an occasional Avalian visiting Antoria but it was rare to actually see one. I'd already completed my basic training but because of the markings that developed on my 18th birthday I was forced into further training...much to my happiness as you can imagine.

One by one people went up to the statue and paid their respects. I saw the King and Queen of Antoria walk forward with their children. The youngest, Princess Elena, grabbed hold of her sobbing mothers hand as the still beautiful queen brushed her hand across the cheek of the statue before wrapping her hand around the outstretched hand which looked like it had been stained. I watched as the rest of the family paid respects to their fallen member before joining the Elder of the Avalians. This ceremony also happens to be when the Avalians hold their ascension ceremony, where the new group of Avalians get their wings, though it happens more often than once a year because their time is different in that world, well that's what the academy says.

"Dude your next." My friend Lake said pushing me forward, yeah our mum's were what earth people call hippies hence the names. I stepped forwards and clasped the statues hand in mine as was proper tradition. I gasped at what I saw, the stains were actually the mirror of mine and with our hands clasped together it looked like they were the continuation of one another. Weird. I went to pull my hand away.

"Help me, I'm stuck." I called pulling but it was no use and I didn't want to damage the statue because it was sacred to both cultures and I'd rather not be the most hated person in Antoria. I tugged and it still wouldn't come off. My hand started to heat and I panicked. "HELP ME DAMN IT!!!" I said when no one had moved.

The queen rushed forward and gasped looking at my hand. I looked down to see what was so special, my markings were glowing and so were the ones on the statue but that's not all, the hand I was clasping was slowly changing from marble to flesh. As the burning intensified my skin began to burn and inside I felt as

if I was ripping in two but at the same time like I was being completed. Could this get any stranger?

There was now a crowd forming around us watching as the black inky markings spread across the statue as the marble became flesh. The pain I was feeling was becoming unbearable and even though I was in as much awe as everyone else as the statue of the ethereal beauty came back I couldn't take it anymore and threw my head back in pain, a cry of agony escaping my lips.

Slowly the pain began to recede and as i lifted my head I heard many gasps from around me but my attention was drawn to the woman who was now was in the place of the statue and was holding on to my hand for dear life, tears running down her cheeks but most remarkable was she now looked even more like our queen as she too was covered in markings but hers were glowing like a rainbow occasionally flashing silver. That is soo cool. She took a deep heaving breath and then as if it was too much she fell forwards falling directly into my arms. I lifted her up bridal style and revelled in the feeling of her

in my arms and the beautiful colours of her wings. I looked at her face.

"Hey are you OK?" I asked gently as I hid her from the spectators and carried her towards the royal family who were just stood there like the statue she had once been though not so marble.

I watched as the woman's eyes fluttered open. She looked up at me and smiled. "My angel." She whispered before looking around confused and her eye finally landing on the Queen and the green winged Avalian clutching onto the Queen for dear life. "Mum? Aurora? What's wrong?" She asked.

"Oh my god, it's really her." The Queen whispered sinking to the floor. "My Izzy."

The King picked the pregnant queen up as the entire royal family surrounded us. I kind of feel like a third wheel right now, maybe I should hand her over to one of the princes, this is a family matter even if I did enjoy having her in my arms a little too much.

The queen's prophet, Blake I think his name was, stepped forward. "It was just as I saw." He said before

looking down at Izzy. "I'm sorry it took so long princess but I only saw the joining of the hands, I never saw his face, that's why we put the hand clasping as tradition." He said with a cheeky grin before walking over to his wife.

I felt a tugging so I looked down as I gently placed Izzy on her but keeping a firm arm wrapped around her waist because she was a bit wobbly. Standing next to me was the youngest Princess, she pulled Izzy and I down so we were on her level. "You two look like mummy and daddy watch this, its soo cool." She pulled my arm the wasn't supporting Izzy up to Izzy's face and began to trace the markings which had gone back to black, and now as my finger followed the path of the markings they began to glow like they had before. My eyes widened as I actually took note of my hand, this one wasn't meant to have markings on it, what the hell is going on?

Izzy lifted her own hand and traced my face making my eyes flutter shut, my skin felt tingly but a nice tingle. "It's soo beautiful."

"Oh that's nothing but wait until you kiss, its soo cool. Only family can come near you then." Princess Elena said smugly wrapped an arm around my shoulder and placing a kiss on my cheek. "You're lucky, big Izzy, you get him as your husband, look who I have to marry." She said pointing behind her at a boy who looked a year older and was clutching onto the green winged woman and wrinkling her nose. "I don't want to kiss him or hug him, he has germs." She said in a matter of fact tone. I chuckled before what she said settled in, husband??

The king started to laugh, what the...oh yeah mind reader.

"Son, when you look in a mirror you'll find you look a lot like myself, because you too now have the soul mate markings, usually it only happens when you do the bonding ceremony but I suppose this was an exception." He said with humour in his voice, he was only in his 40's which is young in the terms of a king.

Shocked I looked at Izzy who was a bit shocked herself before she gave me a shy smile. "You're the one who saved me. Without you I would have

remained a statue forever because when I defeated the demonic, I gave up my soul but you, you somehow gave me some of yours so now we are two halves of a whole. If you die, I die, so no life or death situations that can't be avoided thank you but you're a healer like myself so that should be ok and I can always protect you, after all i am wicked with a blade." She chuckled.

I just nodded numbly as I got to my feet pulling Izzy with me before the young princess hopped into my arms.

"You realise this makes you my big brother." Elena said with a huge grin. I just gulped and smiled nervously as Izzy and I turned to face the crowds who suddenly began to cheer as they laid eyes on their long lost princess. Well hell, if you said this was going to happen to me at the start of the day I would never have believed you. I felt Izzy wrap an arm around my arm around my waist before she leaned into me.

"Don't worry, we have the rest of our lives to get to know each other." She said with a nervous chuckle. I

couldn't help the smile on my face as I turned towards her face but she was much closer than I judged so when I turned our lips brushed and in the brief touch I felt more than I ever hand in my life and I swear I caught sight of a rainbow just then.

"Ooh, do it again." Elena squealed not looking at us but the air around us. I was confused but Izzy just grinned up at me before reaching up and placing a kiss once more on my lips and because my eyes were open from shock I saw it, around us was a bubble that looked like our very own rainbow except it had flecks of silver. On the outside of the bubble I saw Lake whooping and hollering at my which made me chuckle before I closed my eyes and kissed Izzy with everything I had.

Hope you liked this story i know some of it is a bit random but I really liked writing it so yeah thanks for reading it :D

About the Author

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